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'No-fly zone' to protect Shias

Bush threatens to shoot down Iraqi warplanes

BY JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

THE United States and its allies are planning to ban all Iraqi military flights in the southern marshlands to protect Shia Muslim rebels from attack.

The US, Britain and France are preparing to declare an air exclusion zone south of the 32nd parallel that would complement the security zone protecting Kurds in the north of the country. According to US administration officials, Iraqi warplanes may be shot down if they continue attacking the marshlands, north of Basra.

The exclusion zone would take in the key Shia cities of Najaf, Karbala, Amara, Basra and Nasiriyah. The plans were being laid as President Bush flew into the Republican convention that opened in Houston, Texas, last night.

The "no-fly zone" would be enforced by US aircraft based on the aircraft carrier, the Independence, and American fighters deployed in Saudi Arabia. Discussions between Washington and Ri-

yadh over using Saudi air bases to monitor the area intensified yesterday.

Pentagon officials confirmed last night that a 30-strong air warfare battle staff, which was moved from Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina to Riyadh last week, has started working out ways of policing the zone. However, the use of air bases in Kuwait by allied warplanes for patrolling a southern air exclusion zone, may be a violation of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Iraqi planes are capable of attacking ships in the Gulf despite Baghdad's defeat in the Gulf war, a British naval commander said yesterday.

"The Iraqi air force undoubtedly has the capability to carry out attacks against ships," Commander Andrew Wilmet said on the guided missile destroyer *Edinburgh*. He said the *Edinburgh* had the ability to shoot down incoming missiles or aircraft but he declined to speculate on its role if there was military action against Iraq.

John Major flew back from Spain last night and will discuss the possibility of an air strike at an emergency meeting of the cabinet's defence and overseas policy committee today where he will hear reports from Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, the chief of the defence staff. No consideration is being given to the use of British ground troops but air strikes could be mounted from bases in Italy and Cyprus.

British intelligence is understood to have confirmed the use of fixed-wing bombers as well as helicopters by the Iraqi leader in harassing the Shia marsh Arabs. But President Saddam Hussein's post-war air force would be able to offer no significant resistance to an air strike force. A senior source said yesterday that Britain was not at the stage of planning detailed military action but was analysing options, including a military one.

The first move is likely to come today when Jan Eliasson, the United Nations under-secretary general, who arrived in Baghdad on Monday, will press Saddam for better access for armed UN guards, accompanying the

arms monitors and policing Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions, and extensions of visas for nearly 400 UN personnel. The inspection of Baghdad's ministry of military industrialisation by a UN weapons team was called off yesterday after a leak to the American press, quoting US officials saying it was an election ploy timed to coincide with the Republican convention.

However, a refusal by Baghdad to sign a new memorandum of understanding governing the operations of UN personnel and relief workers is likely to serve as one trigger for the flight ban.

Mr Bush said yesterday that the US had the right to "use force if necessary" to compel Saddam to comply with international inspection demands. He said the Iraqi leader "is not going to get away" with defying the world.

He believes that Saddam may be making a mistake in thinking that the US will not respond to him because it is preoccupied with an election year. "I think he's just trying to thumb his nose at the rest of the world, and he's not going to get away with it. He's going to abide by these UN resolutions."

The ban could lead to a shift in America's post-Gulf war policy. There has been consensus in Washington that only a strong leader like Saddam can hold Iraq together and the objective must be to discipline but not topple him. Many officials to the administration are supporting a broad-based rebel coalition government based in Kurdistan and supporting Kurdish and Shia Muslim efforts to overthrow the Iraqi leader.

Iraq's official press yesterday vilified Mr Bush as a "war maniac" and published a call from Ali Hassan al-Majid, the defence minister, urging the armed forces to be alert "to foil enemy schemes aimed at undermining the unity of the Iraqi people". The newspapers made no mention of American reports that UN weapons experts would provide a fresh stand-off over inspections of government ministries.

Action thwarted, page 7
 Oil rises, page 15

E26m Brink's-Mat raid launderers are jailed

By STEWART TENDLER AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THREE men and a woman were jailed for between five and ten years, last night, for their part in the plot to launder the proceeds of the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. The hunt for the missing millions continued.

The convictions brought to an end the latest stage of nearly a decade of police investigation and a total of 12 criminal trials. Many of those who took part in the plot in 1983 remain free and some 69 million remains unaccounted for. Passing sentence, Judge Henry Pownall told the four: "You must

know that you were playing for very high stakes indeed." Brian Perry, 53, a minicab operator, of Biggin Hill, Kent, and Jean Savage, 48, a tobacconist from West Kingsdown, Kent, were found guilty yesterday, the seventh day of the jury's deliberations after an eight-month trial. Gordon Perry, 48, a property developer of Westham, Kent, and Patrick Clark, 53, a former nightclub owner of Chingford, Essex, were found guilty on Saturday.

Full report, page 3



On their way: President Bush in expansive mood as he and Barbara Bush prepare to leave the White House lawn to fly to the Republican convention in Houston, Texas

Princess speaks out for addicts

By KERRY GILL

THE Princess of Wales yesterday called for more research into the causes of drug addiction and pleaded for greater understanding of addicts.

Addressing a conference in Glasgow on alcohol and drug abuse, the Princess spoke of the "horror, evil and violence" of alcohol and drug dependence, and criticised "self-appointed moralists" who claimed that addiction was a weakness, a judgment often delivered from behind a cloud of cigarette smoke. It was time to understand the origins of addiction, she said, instead of "crossing the road to the other side".

Some studies had indicated that half the prison population was locked up as a result of addiction and dependency. Yet those ensnared were often sensitive, creative people.

Many of the addicts she had met admitted that they had taken pride in evil, she said. "Addiction removes any semblance of social behaviour. An extreme evil surfaces in people who may previously have seemed pleasant."

Research call, page 2

House sales slump pushes down rents

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

RENTS have tumbled in London and the South-east by 10 per cent over the past 18 months. Owners unable or unwilling to sell their homes are letting their properties instead, and the increased supply has forced rents down.

The Association of Residential Letting Agents, whose first survey of the private rented market was published yesterday, estimates that 50,000 such properties have come onto the letting market since the 1988 Housing Act.

Neville Lee, the association's chairman, said: "The act came into force in January 1989, and in the following 18 months, an extra 150,000 new tenancies have come onto the market. A very large number of those are people who are letting because they must."

The act created a shorthold tenancy which allows the landlord to repossess his property after six months for non-payment of rent.

While the supply of rented property has increased, the number of people wishing to rent has not kept pace in most of the South East. Although more young people are disillusioned with home ownership and there is increased

demand at the bottom of the market, this has been outweighed by the decrease in company lets because of the recession.

The problem is especially acute in London, where the association estimates that 80 per cent of lettings are corporate ones. Yolande Barnes, of the estate agent Savills, which has recorded London rent falls of 10.8 per cent over the past year, says that high rents charged in the eighties reflected demand from companies. "The difficult economic climate has forced many companies to look harder at the options available for the relocation and accommodation of their staff. Business failures and lack of business confidence has meant that few companies will be willing or able to afford the expenditure once considered normal for staff accommodation." Some companies no longer pay rent for their staff, Ms Barnes said.

Mr Lee said that outside London and the South-east, rents have edged up by about 5 per cent in some

Continued on page 14, col 1
 Tony Travers, page 10

UN fears 200,000 Bosnians may flee

FROM TIM JUDAH AND ROBERT SERLY IN ZAGREB

TWO hundred thousand people may be evicted from their homes or attempt to flee northern Bosnia in the next few weeks, according to a senior United Nations official.

Jose Maria Mendiluce, the special envoy of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for all former Yugoslavia, said yesterday that his organisation was now involved in a tense stand-off with Bosnian Serb leaders but predicted: "I think we will lose."

Medical teams who returned this weekend from Gorazde, the Muslim town southwest of Sarajevo, said that they were appalled by the conditions they found, which included doctors performing surgery on children without anaesthetics.

Fighting meanwhile continued around cities held by Bosnian forces yesterday and more than two dozen people were reported to have been killed. In Sarajevo, a mortar shell struck a crowded street in the city centre killing at least one person and injuring 21. At least another seven people were reported killed as shells fell on the city. In Jajce, a Muslim town in central Bosnia, a dozen civilians were reported dead after a prolonged rocket attack by Serb forces. HINA, the Croatian news agency, reported that 13 Serb troops were killed after mounting an attack on the town of Kotor Varos in the north of the republic.

The exodus of women and children from Sarajevo looks set to continue after the charity Children's Embassy announced that it had negotiated for a convoy of about 1,000 Serb women and children to be evacuated within the next two days and driven to Belgrade.

The UNHCR's grim forecast of hundreds of thousands being poised to flee northern Bosnia comes after Serb leaders demanded that the agency help evacuate 28,000 non-Serbs from the region. However, the organisation said it would not be "blackmailed" into helping anyone to "ethnically cleanse" territory under their control. Serb Continued on page 14, col 7

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

ONE YEAR ON



When Mikhail Gorbachev went on holiday to the Crimea he was toppled by four of Russia's most powerful men
Life & Times
 Page 1

25 YEARS ON



Radio One was dull, patronising and moronic when Tony Blackburn launched it. Today the station remains the same.
 says Janet Daley
Life & Times
 Page 10

30 YEARS ON



The over-30s should not go on about how great the 1960s were.
 Caitlin Moran offers them some advice
Life & Times
 Page 5

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Superflea leaves cat experts scratching heads

By DAVID YOUNG

AFTER catching mice, chasing birds and avoiding dogs, Britain's cats may be struggling with a new enemy, the superflea. Pest controllers say that what appears to be a new, stronger breed of flea has arrived in Britain and it is resisting the powders and sprays that shift normal fleas from feline fur.

Experts believe that the fleas hatched from larvae which could have lain dormant for almost a year. They blame the plague on the hot, humid weather. Rentokil said that the number of houses with fleas had increased dramatically this summer. Vets throughout the country are reporting thousands of owners bringing their cats in for treatment. Cat owners have inundated pest controllers with complaints. Owners have been advised to treat pets and their



The common cat flea magnified 20 times

bedding with anti-flea spray or powder once a week until the end of October. But health officials admit that this is unlikely to stop the outbreak spreading and some experts are con-

vinced that a superflea may be developing. Keith Kennard, pest control officer for North Cornwall District Council, who has had several instances of fleas resisting the common powders and insecticides, said: "We don't know the cause but we could have a superflea developing. I hope to try something different on them."

Cats are the main hosts for fleas, biting, mating and egg-laying, although fleas can find their way into homes where there are no pets. Although cat fleas cannot live on humans they do have a bite which leaves an itchy red spot.

The adult cat flea lives in a cat's coat for three days. During that period they mate frenetically and lay about ten eggs a day which drop off onto the floor. The eggs take three days to a week to hatch into minute larvae. The larvae burrow into cracks in the floor and can take 14 days to

several months, depending on the conditions, to develop. They feed on spots of mould and food crumbs although their main diet is microscopic flakes of human skin. After hatching, the fleas leap aboard any passing cat. They begin mating and three days later start laying.

Dr John Maunier, director of the medical entomology centre at Cambridge University, said: "The flea problem is growing year after year. Fleas like very high humidity and heat and conditions have been very good."

Fleas are costing fire services a fortune by sparking off false alarms. Essex fire brigade said that swarms of thunder flies were being mistaken for smoke by fire alarms and automatic warnings were sent out to emergency services. It costs the fire service at least £200 for each appliance sent to a false alarm.

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Princess calls for research into causes of addiction

By KERRY GILL

THE Princess of Wales yesterday spoke of the "horror, evil and violence" of alcohol and drug dependence and hit at "self-appointed moralists" who regard addiction as a weakness.

"Sadly, many people still regard addiction as a moral weakness," she told delegates from 54 countries at the thirty-sixth International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Glasgow.

"A number of these self-appointed moralists even choose to make such judgments from behind a cloud of cigarette smoke. Presumably, they regard cigarette smoking as morally neutral and non-addictive."

It was time to understand the origins of addiction, she told the six-day conference. Instead of "crossing the road to the other side", with almost 10 per cent of the population in some developed countries facing dependency, the princess said the real question was whether it was a great achievement to be listed among the so-called developed countries.

She argued that development was increasingly driving people towards addiction as a form of escape, and cited studies showing that 50 per cent of the UK's prison population was locked up as a result of addiction and dependency.

The princess told the 700 delegates in Glasgow that those who become ensnared in addiction were often highly sensitive and creative people. "This is turned [around] by some, who say that alcoholics, and so alcohol, have contributed inestimably to mankind. Undoubtedly, huge contributions have been made to the world by people who have also been alcoholics — but I doubt it was the alcohol."

She said lively imagination

had long chosen to hide in fantasy worlds for protection rather than face a raw and real world. "Imaginative children lose themselves in fantasy worlds through stories. Later they might choose to escape through Ecstasy, uppers, alcohol and addiction."

The princess said a heroin addict once told her that as a child he felt his "human radar" was jammed by too much information. "He sought solace in an early age in drugs and found anything but solace when he became addicted."

Many of the addicts she had met admitted they had taken pride in evil, she said, adding: "Addiction removes any semblance of social behaviour. An extreme evil surfaces in people who may previously have seemed pleasant."

The Princess of Wales said: "Attempts to understand the origins of addiction in no way provide a sanctimonious excuse to the addict for the almost incomprehensible horror which drug addiction wields. However, it may be worth exploring some characteristics of addicts so that vulnerable people can be helped away from allowing themselves to be sucked into the habit," she said.

Society, the princess said, now faced two main challenges: how to stop people becoming addicts and how to help addicts find more a fulfilling existence. She said a combination of prevention and cure was needed.

Her theme of trying to tackle the reasons for addiction was taken up by Hans Embold, director of the World Health Organisation's programme on substance abuse. Mr Embold said that 90 per cent of resources were directed at reducing supplies



No moral weakness: the Princess of Wales pleads for greater understanding

but that more were needed to treat those who suffered. He attacked what was all too often the glorification of drug barons and drug seizures. Lurid warnings of "inner city mayhem" were only part of the story.

Today he will again address the conference and argue that tackling demand is as important as reducing supply of addictive substances.

Professor Fred Edwards, director of social work for Strathclyde, praised the princess's speech. He said it was obvious she had carried out many engagements as patron of Turning Point, the charity helping people with drug and drug-related problems, and had studied the problems in depth.

Prof Edwards backed up the princess's statistics, saying

that 63 per cent of the Scottish prison population was incarcerated at the time of offending. "We can so easily be seduced into a situation where the means become more important than the end, where the scramble to publish first becomes more important than the attention to the suffering, pain and misery which is generated by alcohol and drug dependency."

'Hard sell' timeshare dealers to be curbed

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TIMESHARE salesmen face curbs on high-pressure selling techniques as part of government action to give greater protection to consumers. A new measure will give customers a 14-day "cooling off" period in which the agreement can be cancelled.

Timeshare companies and sales representatives who break the new regulation face fines of up to £5,000 on summary conviction and unlimited fines on indictment. But the act does not cover every agreement signed outside the UK and the government and Consumers' Association are to press for EC-wide safeguards.

The Timeshare Council, representing some companies in the industry, claimed that the new measures would only drive unscrupulous operators abroad. "People will now be bombarded from overseas with junk mail on timeshares. All this measure does is export the problem," said Tom Critchley, chairman of the council.

Baroness Denton of Wakefield, a junior trade and industry minister, said yesterday: "The act provides substantial protection for those buyers who feel that they have been unfairly induced to buy a product which they either did not really want or could not afford."

The cooling-off period is introduced under the 1992 Timeshare Act, which comes into operation on October 12. It covers timeshare agreements entered into under UK law or where one or both parties to an agreement is in the UK when it is made.

Timeshare sellers will be legally obliged to provide a buyer with a notice setting out the right to cancel and a blank cancellation form before the buyer signs the timeshare agreement.

A buyer who cancels an agreement within the 14-day period will be entitled to claim back any advance payments made in respect of the deal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby snatcher not likely to be charged

The woman who snatched six-month-old Farrah Quli from her home in east London and took her to Limerick, where she told her family the baby was her own child, is not likely to be charged, it emerged yesterday. Karen McSweeney, 22, has agreed to seek medical help. According to villagers in Cratloe, near Limerick, where her parents live, Miss McSweeney is distraught and is finding it difficult to talk about the incident.

Miss McSweeney posed as a bogus mother's help and snatched the baby after answering a newspaper advertisement. A report on what happened will be in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Dublin by the end of the week. It is expected to give details of the events that led to Miss McSweeney travelling to England and snatching the baby, including her ordeal of giving birth to twins which were then given up for adoption, as well as medical reports.

Therese Brady, a psychologist at University College, Dublin, said yesterday that taking Miss McSweeney to court would not solve her problems. "She needs a lot of help and understanding right now. What led her to take this baby is important and the legal system is not the best route to find that out," she said. Bernadette and Shane Quli, the baby's parents, have said they are not expected to insist on charges from England, and they have forgiven Miss McSweeney.

Ferry checks ordered

The Irish government yesterday ordered checks on the sewage systems of passenger ferries using its ports after the death last week of two children during a sailing between Swansea and Cork. The six ferry companies operating services to Ireland have been instructed to provide details of their gas-detection systems or install them if they do not have them. A ferry-users' group will be set up involving government officials, company representatives and consumer groups, for dealing with passenger complaints. There have been allegations that Swansea Cork Ferries, operators of the *Celtic Pride*, on which the children were overcome by toxic fumes, had ignored complaints by passengers a year ago of a faulty sewage ventilation system on the vessel.

Draw for computer

The first game between a computer and the world draughts champion, Dr Marion Tinsley, has ended in a draw. After four hours and 52 moves, Dr Tinsley, 65, a mathematics professor of Tallahassee, Florida, conceded that the game could not be won. Experts consider that the second game, in which Dr Tinsley is playing with the black pieces, will also end in a draw against the £200,000 Canadian computer program Chinook, which has 17 billion positions stored in its memory and can analyse three million moves a minute. However, the experts expect Dr Tinsley, world champion since 1954, to win the 40-game tournament at the Park Lane Hotel, central London, by two or three games to none, with the rest drawn. Chinook has been programmed by Professor Jonathan Schaeffer of Alberta.

Ransom cash numbered

Half of a £40,000 ransom paid by a bank manager for the return of his kidnapped wife was in unused, identifiable £20 notes, police said yesterday. The money was handed over on Friday by Derek Kerr, left, after his wife, Elizabeth, was snatched from their home in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, by a man posing as a police officer. Police said £18,000 was from a batch of £20 notes numbered 847001-847901 and £2,000 in £20 notes numbered 849001-849100.

Immunisation success

There were no child deaths from measles or whooping cough in England and Wales for the first time last year, according to government figures. Record numbers of children were immunised against infectious diseases last year: 92 per cent were vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella, and 90 per cent against whooping cough. Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said the figures were an excellent achievement but that there was no room for complacency until these diseases were eliminated. The haemophilus influenza b (Hib) vaccine will be introduced into the programme from October 1. Hib is the most frequent cause of bacterial meningitis in children under five and kills about 65 people a year in England and Wales.

Race killing at school

Race hatred at a comprehensive school ended in a teenager's murder after a playground dispute at the school in Tottenham, north London, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday. Arif Roberts, 15, was "the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time", said Linda Stern, prosecuting. Racial friction between black and Vietnamese pupils exploded into a fight during a game of football in September 1990, she told the court. The Vietnamese planned revenge and recruited others to come to the school to fight. The next day, a 16-year-old boy from Woolwich, southeast London, arrived with other Vietnamese youths armed with knives. Arif, a black pupil, went out of the school gates on his lunch break and was set upon. A knife was rammed into Arif's neck, severing his jugular vein. The 16-year-old denies murder. The trial continues.

Cat tortured to death

Three men who tortured a pet cat, ripping off its back legs and tail before hurling it alive on to a bonfire at a farm in Machen, Mid Glamorgan, were given custodial sentences yesterday. Two boys, aged 15 and 16, will be sentenced later. "This poor cat was tortured and killed for a joke by this gang," Geraint Richards, prosecuting for the RSPCA, told magistrates at Caerphilly. Stephen Williams, who saw them through the telescopic sight of his rifle, said: "It [the cat] was screaming like a banshee. It struggled to get out of the flames for about 15 seconds before it gave up and died." The five people prosecuted for the cat Tigger's death all came from an estate near the farm. Owen Richards, 21, was jailed for five months. Adam Richards and Darren Chapman, both 18, were given five months' youth custody.

Toilets rated poor

British public conveniences are rated better than only those of France, Thailand and Greece, according to a survey released yesterday. The survey, by Andrew Moist Toilet Tissue, said the best public toilets were found in the United States, Switzerland and Germany. In Britain, football grounds, fairs, parks and beaches were the sites of the worst public conveniences. More than two in five Britons rated clean toilets more important than clean beaches, swimming pools and drinking water.

Man held for murder

A neighbour of Tracey Carey, the single mother who was found stabbed to death in her home on August 9, appeared in court yesterday charged with her murder. Glenroy Ezekiel Allison, 35, unemployed, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, was remanded in custody for seven days by magistrates. Carey, 20, was found dead in the hallway of her home in Trowbridge. Her 17-month-old daughter, Kayleigh, was discovered asleep upstairs. More than 100 bystanders jeered Mr Allison as he was driven away.

French accused of new fishing attack

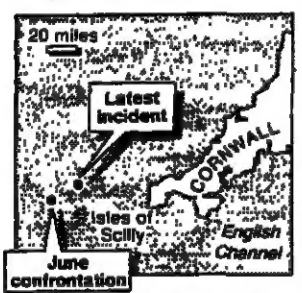
By DAVID YOUNG

THE skipper of an English fishing boat said yesterday that a French trawler had caused damage to his nets that would cost several thousand pounds to repair only a month after a previous incident in the same area ended with the Royal Navy boarding a French vessel.

Richard Jenkins, 31, skipper of the 36ft *Aquarius*, said the French trawler *Damocles* had run through his nets 17 miles north of the Isles of Scilly. Mr Jenkins said he radioed the position of his gear to the French skipper but about four tiers of gill nets were lost in the incident.

Mr Jenkins's wife, Heather, said: "He called them up on the radio and gave them the net positions but they did not seem to care what they were doing. The French skipper spoke good English but they just continued to trawl."

"We only bought the boat in the spring and this is a serious financial set-back. Richard may now have to move off good fishing ground and take risks in unknown ground. The French claimed



they had been in the area for three days but Richard had been working out there for two weeks. When he returns home he will file a complaint with the ministry."

Mr Jenkins is based on the Scilly island of Bryher. Last month three skippers from Newlyn, Cornwall, said they lost nets worth up to £20,000 after clashes with the French trawler *Larche*, which was boarded by crew from a Royal Navy protection vessel.

The incidents, also off the Isles of Scilly, provoked an angry cross-Channel war of words at government level. The three fishermen are still waiting for compensation. One skipper said he had been forced to sign on for social security benefit after losing nets worth £7,000.

Eubank fined for careless driving

By GEOFF KING

CHRIS Eubank, the boxer, was fined £250 with £1,450 costs yesterday after being found guilty of driving without due care and attention when he swerved off the road in his Range Rover and killed a workman.

Eubank told police he had lost control of the vehicle when it hit Kevin Lawlor, 33, by the London to Brighton A23 near Pease Pothage, West Sussex, in February. Haywards Heath magistrates' court was told. He said his Range Rover swerved after he braked to avoid grit and pebbles.

The world super-middleweight champion told police he and his brothers were on their way to Gatwick for a flight to Jamaica to see their grandmother. He denied that he had been in a hurry.

Maria Higgins, for the prosecution, said Eubank told police he was driving casually. He said he saw a pile of bricks and then a man facing him as the Range Rover hit a gravel surface at the side of the road. "I don't know why he didn't move. I had lost complete control because of the gravel."

Eubank, 26, was arrested on suspicion of causing death by reckless driving. PC David Dudley read from a transcript of an interview with the boxer in which he said: "I touched the brake. I don't think I touched it very heavily but the car swerved just a

little. I was driving casually. With the Range Rover, once it swerves, because it is top-heavy, it has a tendency to sway a bit."

Eubank said there was a chain reaction with the vehicle swerving into the roadside lane, then back into the outside lane before returning to the roadside and eventually leaving the road. Asked why he had touched the brake, he said he had sensed that there was gravel on the road and that he was going a little too

fast at 58mph. He said he thought the car's power steering contributed to its tendency to sway as it was light. Asked if he might have handled the steering a little too roughly, he said he was a strong man and needed to bring the vehicle under control. "Maybe I got rough in trying to control the car."

Miss Higgins said the prosecution evidence was that the road surface had been clear and that no other vehicles had problems. She said



Eubank arriving at the court yesterday

BA loses US passengers to Lufthansa

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

COST-CONSCIOUS British businessmen trying to save money when visiting America are flying to Frankfurt first, and German leisure passengers are flying to Heathrow to take advantage of cut-price economy tickets available only in Britain.

The anomaly means that first-class and business-class passengers from Britain can save more than £800 by flying to Germany to connect with a transatlantic service, and a German tourist can save about £80 by flying to Britain first.

Intense competition on flights between the United States and Germany has forced airlines on both sides of the Atlantic to cut the price of first-class and business-class tickets to levels well below those available direct from Britain, where the price war has been concentrated in the economy section.

Lufthansa says that a first-class passenger would pay £4,518 to fly from

London to Chicago direct, but the cost of travelling via Frankfurt would be only £3,682, a saving of £836. A business-class fare direct from Heathrow to Los Angeles is £3,254, compared with an inclusive Heathrow-Frankfurt-Los Angeles fare of £2,656, saving £598.

"As first and business-class fares to the US are nearly 30 per cent cheaper from Germany than from the UK, the combination of a flight from London, Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow to Frankfurt with an onward flight to New York or eight other Lufthansa destinations in the US offers such savings that it makes the extended travelling time worthwhile," Lufthansa said.

That extended travelling time, which, according to British Airways, can add five hours to a journey, has prevented a rush of businessmen from changing planes in Frankfurt. "This causes us no concern," BA said. "It has minimal impact on the UK business market, where first and business-class passengers know very well that routing via Europe in the wrong direction prolongs the

journey by a wide margin. They see time as money and pay for the convenience of a fast non-stop flight instead of waiting for a connection in Europe."

However, as businessmen increasingly use travel management techniques, a growing number are learning that juggling timetables can save large sums.

Germans, and others on the Continent, are learning to take advantage of economy fares on long-haul flights from Britain. Airline Ticket Network, which sells discount fares, says that more Germans, Scandinavians and Swiss are now coming to Britain, perhaps to stay for a few days, before flying to America, Australia or the Far East. John Swindell, managing director, said: "We contract with airlines to take their excess capacity and then retail it as efficiently and cheaply as we can. This is a British phenomenon that the rest of Europe has now caught on to."

The use of computers by travel agents to trawl through the complex web of international air fares had led to more "odd-ball" flights being made available.

THE BOOK THEY TRIED TO BAN!
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'Lady Goldfinger' receives five years after jury is told of bullion fund merry-go-round

Four jailed for plot to launder £26m Brink's-Mat haul

BY STEWART TENDLER AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THREE men and a woman were sent to prison for a total of 29 years last night for their part in a plot to launder the proceeds of the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. Their convictions at the Old Bailey were the culmination of nearly a decade of police work to bring those behind the record-breaking crime to justice.

Judge Pownall told them: "You must have known you were playing for very high stakes indeed. There can hardly have been a more serious case of handling than this."

Brian Perry, 53, a mini-cab operator, of Biggin Hill, Kent, and Jean Savage, 48, a tobacconist from West Kingsdown, Kent, were found guilty on the seventh day of the jury's deliberations after an eight-month trial and were given jail terms of nine years and five years respectively.

Gordon Parry, 48, a property developer of Westerham, Kent, and Patrick Clark, 53, a former night-club owner of Chingford, Essex, who were found guilty on Saturday, received ten years and six years.

Clark's son, Stephen, 26, was acquitted of taking part in the plot to launder profits from the 1983 raid.

The jailing of the four comes nine years, and 12 trials, after Britain's biggest bullion robbery was launched by a simple telephone message when a crooked guard at a high-security warehouse near Heathrow airport rang a south London number to announce: "The fishing trip is on."

Hours later, eight hooded armed robbers broke into the warehouse, terrified the guards and fled with £26.3 million, largely composed of 6,800 gold bars.

Yesterday, the latest trial in what is thought to be the longest continuous robbery investigation run by British police ended, many of the raiders remain free.

Police believe that they know the identities of at least six robbers, but only two have been convicted and there is insufficient evidence to charge others.

Police can account for more than £17 million of the cash realised from the gold. The rest has allegedly gone into property in Britain and Spain or drugs.

Eleven bars of the gold were found in 1985 melted

down. Another £1 million worth of gold was later recovered from the Bank of England, where it was being stored after re-entering the legal market. The rest is believed to have been melted soon after the robbery.

Jean Savage, nicknamed "Lady Goldfinger", appeared at the trial with relatives in the public gallery as the verdict was announced. All defendants had variously denied charges of handling and conspiracy to handle proceeds from the raid.

The prosecution had told the court that £14 million in profits from the raid had "tormented" in during an operation to launder cash from the bullion. It had gone on a merry-go-round through

various bank and offshore accounts, properties and companies to be "cleaned of any association with Brink's-Mat gold", Michael Austin-Smith, for the prosecution said.

Perry had been recruited as an agent for two of the Brink's-Mat robbers who are now serving 25 years in jail and was to look after their interests on the outside while others manipulated the spoils, the prosecution said.

However, Perry had "set about feathering his own nest", Mr Austin-Smith said, adding: "He was the man making the rules and the man in charge."

Gordon Parry, the operation's flamboyant figurehead, fled to Spain shortly before police swooped, but was brought back to Britain. Parry, who was described as a "wheeling-dealing businessman who dabbled in property in a small way", was sentenced to 12 years for handling £7.5 million from the robbery and converting it into an £18 million property empire.

A total of £15 million cash and £5 million in property—allegedly from the money chain's proceeds—is frozen and is expected to be the subject of civil court proceedings.

Patrick Clark allegedly handled more than £4 million, which has not been recovered.

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Patrick Clark allegedly handled £4 million

became the front man in the property deals.

Money put into offshore accounts was brought back to be invested in Britain—much in Docklands during the mid-eighties boom," Mr Austin-Smith had claimed.

Savage was the common law wife of one John Lloyd, and the ex-wife of a former bank robber, Mickey Ismail.

Savage took shopping bags containing £2.5 million cash to put into the Bank of Ireland's Croydon branch. The money was later transferred to Ireland, where, with interest, it grew to more than £4 million.

In January 1985, John Fordham, a detective keeping watch on the Kent home of Kenneth Noye, was stabbed by Noye.

Noye was suspected of being part of the chain of businessmen, jewellers and criminal go-betweens who had helped to turn the gold into cash. The chain stretched from Noye to the West Country and back to London.

Noye, acquitted of the killing in November 1985, was convicted in 1986 with three others for handling the bullion and was jailed for 14 years, reduced to 13 on appeal.

The killing redoubled the police effort. John Palmer, a Bristol jeweller, was suspected by police of being one of the smelters and was arrested by detectives after returning from Spain and Brazil. In 1987, however, he was acquitted of handling the gold.

Later police followed another line of enquiry.

Michael Rehon, a London solicitor with the nickname of "the Champagne Man", had become managing director of a network turning cash from Brink's-Mat into property, including developments in Docklands. Others involved included Perry and Gordon Parry. In 1988, Rehon was sentenced to 12 years for handling £7.5 million from the robbery and converting it into an £18 million property empire.

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Patrick Clark allegedly handled more than £4 million, which has not been recovered.

Patrick Clark allegedly handled £4 million



Day of reckoning: Brian Perry and Jean Savage entering court yesterday

Money maze filled detectives' lives

AT DAWN on November 26, 1983, Detective Sergeant Billy Miller was on surveillance in east London, waiting for an armed gang to attack a Post Office van (Stewart Tandler writes).

The Flying Squad radio network suddenly ordered, his team across London to the scene of a £26 million gold robbery. It was Mr Miller's introduction to a crime which has occupied him for nearly nine years.

He arrived at the scene little more than two hours after the robbery had taken place and has done almost no other work since but help to pursue the gold, the robbers and their friends.

Now the longest-serving officer in the case, he and Det Sergeant Tony Curtis, who joined the investigation a few weeks later, are the remaining members of a police team that once numbered more

than 200. Once part of the Flying Squad, then members of an organised crime task force, since disbanded, the two men are now a unit within Scotland Yard's international and organised crime branch. They have seen 12 cases or trials and 29 people go before the courts linked in some way to the investigation.

Mr Miller, 48, has become an expert on banking, money laundering and computing as the cases have moved from the original robbery to the money trails used to convert the gold into investable cash. He and Mr Curtis, 47, believe the robbers, from south and east London, assumed that the police would lose interest once some of them were convicted.

"We could not leave them with the money because of the sheer size of the job, especially if it had been invested in drugs," Mr Miller said. "They were the cream of robbery teams at the time."

The investigation has taken him to Ireland, Spain, Gibraltar and the United States.

Police believe that some of the criminals discussed killing an officer if they could identify one as vital to the investigation. Four of the trials have included jury protection.

The latest trial followed two previous attempts. An initial trial in 1990 was abandoned after legal argument. A second was stopped before Christmas after allegations of attempts to bribe the jury. When the new trial started in January there were still problems. Anonymous allegations were made about comments on the trial by a

juror. The allegations were investigated by Hertfordshire police and proved to be baseless, but a juror retired for safety.

While still preparing the case, the detectives have seen other quarry serve sentences and leave jail. Michael Rehon, the London solicitor who became a key money launderer and was sentenced to 12 years, is free. Noye, sentenced to 13 years, has been allowed home leave. Other smaller players have long been free. But the original robbers will still be in prison long after Mr Miller and Mr Curtis have retired. They are not eligible for release until the next century.

One trial is outstanding and at least two more fugitives may yet be caught. If not, Mr Miller will prepare for retirement in his birthplace, the Orkney Islands, as a lobster fisherman.

He then discharged one of the women jurors, assuring her he did not think she had done or said anything wrong, but offering no further explanation.

Jurors shadowed round the clock

THE jury in the Brink's-Mat trial was shadowed around the clock by police officers for nearly eight months, the longest and one of the costliest protection operations of its kind undertaken by the Metropolitan Police.

A squad of 72 officers was assigned to look after the seven men and five women on the jury in January for a trial that was expected to last until Easter. The jury was the second to be sworn in to try the four men and one woman accused. A jury tampering scare halted the original trial at the end of 1991 after five months.

The retrial started on January 17 after a legal dispute about police protection. The defence wanted officers from a force not concerned in the prosecution to shadow the jury. "We would be more confident if it was an independent force under-

THE JURY

taking protection," said Jonathan Goldberg, QC, defending Brian Perry. But Michael Austin-Smith, QC, for the prosecution, argued: "This is yet another insidious slur on the integrity of the Metropolitan Police—which seems to be so fashionable at the moment."

Det Insp David Shipperley, in charge of the jury protection squad, assured the defence that he and the three Brink's-Mat officers worked from different buildings. His squad was instructed not to socialise with jurors and to avoid striking up any relationship. If anything went wrong, they would report to the judge and not the officers connected with the case.

Mr Shipperley said that his officers followed jurors "at a discreet distance wherever they go—but no conversation takes place whatsoever with the juror. The only occasion when they speak is to find out their daily plans or if there has been any untoward incident."

Both trials—estimated to have cost £7 million—were bedevilled with hitches. During the second, a letter to the judge halted proceedings for nearly a month while police investigated. The letter purported to come from the spouse of one of the jurors and contained a number of allegations. Later the judge said he was satisfied the letter probably came from an unknown mischief-maker.

He then discharged one of the women jurors, assuring her he did not think she had done or said anything wrong, but offering no further explanation.

Angry voices on path to nowhere

Craig Seton finds that a pleasant stroll along a country path can be a hazardous and frustrating operation for ramblers

THE sun was shining and the field of maize swayed in the gentle breeze as we walked on one of Britain's treasured countryside footpaths and approached an obstacle of the type that infuriates the hardy members of the Ramblers Association.

The approaching difficulty turned out to be more problematic than a broken stile or a path obliterated by an unsympathetic farmer. Cars and lorries were bearing down on us as we encountered the dual carriageway A52 between Nottingham and Derby that cut through the route we were taking.

I waited to dodge the heavy traffic with my guide, Margaret Whittlestone, the association's doughty footpaths secretary for Erewash in Derbyshire. The footpath we were walking near Borrowash, Derby, is one of many routes where the Ramblers Association says access has been denied to its 89,000 members by selfish and sometimes criminal actions of landowners and others through ploughing, crop planting and other obstructions. The body will publish a list of the footpaths today.

On September 27, which it has designated Forbidden Britain Day, thousands of ramblers will walk the paths to "reclaim" their right to walk them unhindered. It is part of an offensive by the association to highlight the problems of access to designated footpaths in the countryside. Mrs Whittlestone said that in the case of our footpath the offender was the

Department of Transport, which had failed to build a footbridge or tunnel to take the route across the busy trunk road, which gives the bypass for Borrowash.

The road was built many years ago and local ramblers, many of them elderly, have avoided the footpath altogether because of the danger posed by the road or have risked their lives crossing it. Now they are trying to persuade the transport department to build a footbridge, but its officials will merely say that they are "looking into it".

The route from Borrowash is clearly marked as a footpath on the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Series map. Mrs Whittlestone and I also walked another path over which the group has scored a recent victory. A number of farmers had regularly ploughed over the route, near Risley, a few miles from Borrowash, and then planted cereal crops that obliterated the path. It had been effectively closed for many years, but the recent threat of legal action by Erewash Borough Council had forced the landowners to start reinstating it.

The path begins on a side road. According to our map it should have followed a route across a field, but crops were still growing and we could find no sign of the path. We walked on and finally spotted faint signs of a rough path in another field where crops had been harvested. A new waymark sign had been nailed to a small footbridge over a dyke showing the direction to be followed.

Maxwell court case postponed

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN Maxwell won a two-week adjournment of bankruptcy proceedings against him in a private hearing in the High Court yesterday.

The proceedings have been brought by the liquidators of the Maxwell pension funds. Last month they won a £406 million judgment against Mr Maxwell. They have expedited a bankruptcy petition to have the court appoint a trustee in bankruptcy to Mr Maxwell's estate.

A trustee would have wide powers to search for Mr Maxwell's assets. The hearing has been adjourned until September 1 to allow Mr Maxwell to prepare his defence against the petition.

Speaking outside the court, Mr Maxwell said the delay would give him the opportunity to state his views. "To the best of my understanding an expedited petition is only heard when there is a serious possibility that assets will be dissipated pending the hearing. This is utterly misconceived in my case."

"No assets have been dissipated or will be dissipated. I have and always will conduct myself in compliance with court orders and for the benefit of all my creditors."

Mr Maxwell's assets have been frozen by the courts since December after an earlier application from Robson Rhodes, the liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, the Maxwell pension fund manager. The court has allowed him £1,500 a week living expenses, while his mounting legal bills are being paid by his mother, Elisabeth.

Radio 1 celebrates with golden oldies

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NOEL Edmonds and Emperor Rosko, two of Radio 1's vintage disc jockeys, will return to the airwaves this September as part of a nostalgic celebration to mark the BBC pop station's 25th birthday.

Rosko, dubbed the "Wild Man of Radio" as one of the original line-up of DJs on the original line-up of DJs on September 30, 1967, said yesterday that he intended to change since the sixties when he returns for a one-off show on September 26.

But 25 years after Tony Blackburn spun Radio 1's first record, *Flowers in the Rain* by The Move, Radio 1 is facing an uphill struggle trying to persuade Britain's youth that it is as hip as it was in the late sixties.

A vox pop of young listeners conducted by *The Times* yesterday revealed that teenagers, particularly the over-16s, think Radio 1 can be "naïf", old-fashioned, and pretentious.

They want more rap, rave and indie music (records on small independent labels)

and less DJ-speak. "I don't like that Steve Wright," said Jackie Porjes, 21, Tom Greeford, 17, said: "I'd prefer more indie and rap music. I only really listen to John Peel. But Radio 1 hasn't got enough variety. It's a bit false. I'd like more music and less of the rubbish."

But love it or loathe it, most young people listen to it. Latest figures for April to June reveal that Radio 1 has increased its audience by 500,000 to 15.5 million. The station has also increased its weekly reach among 16 to 24-year-olds from 53 per cent to 56 per cent.

Johnny Beering, Radio 1's controller and the producer of the station's first programme, said that the network would mark its anniversary with more intelligent DJs, more comedy and more serious debate. "We now try and make sure our DJs have something to say, and if they haven't, to play another record," he said.

Mr Edmonds, now a millionaire television personality, returns to Radio 1 for a single Sunday morning special on September 29. He said: "I don't like reminiscing because it makes me feel old. Radio 1 was ranked pretty low in the pecking order in those days. Now it is a very much sharper, commercial organisation and I am very grateful to them for putting the spotlight on me for the anniversary." Mr Edmonds last had a regular Radio 1 show in 1983.

Scores of parties and events, are being planned nationwide to mark the station's anniversary.

Janet Daley, page 10



Porjes: unimpressed by Radio 1 disc jockeys

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Services will operate as normal up to and including Monday night's sailing from Swansea.

There will be a special sailing from Cork next Tuesday August 18th at 9.00am to accommodate passengers booked for the cancelled sailings from Cork on Wednesday.

Thursday and Friday and who may wish to change their travel arrangements.

Every effort will be made to provide alternative travel through Pembroke and Fishguard for those passengers inconvenienced by this new arrangement. The company acknowledges with appreciation the co-operation of both B&I and Sealink.

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Bereaved families seek judicial review

Fire death coroner refuses new evidence

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE families of four people killed in a fire at a party in a flat at Hove, East Sussex, in April walked out of the inquest into their deaths yesterday after the coroner refused to hear new evidence from their lawyer.

Colm Davis-Lyons, for the families, asked Dr Donald Gooding to admit a 29-page submission relating to the ownership of the flat. He told the resumed inquest at Brighton that the evidence would identify the owner of the three-storey building, which did not have a fire escape.

In court, he named a Mr Hoogstraen as the probable owner, but the coroner replied: "I have no firm evidence that Mr Hoogstraen was or is the owner of the property involved. He may be but I have no firm evidence and I can't call a witness on what amounts to a show of hands."

The ownership of the building has baffled the authorities, with letters to supposed owners going unanswered. Mr Davis-Lyons referred to letters sent to a Nicholas Ioannou, a director of the company that is the lease-

holder of the building. He told the jury that efforts to contact him had failed but added: "There is reason to suspect that he does not in fact exist... but that he does exist under the name of Mr Hoogstraen."

The families walked out of the inquest and are seeking a judicial review from the divisional court. Dennis Johns, father of one of the victims, read a statement on behalf of the bereaved, which said: "The families have unanimously agreed to withdraw from the proceedings until the evidence they consider to be important is made known to the court."

"This matter is now to be referred to the divisional court at the families' request. I very much hope there will be another inquest. It will be a farce if there is not. We want justice for our son and for the other families. If we can stop this happening somewhere else it will be a bonus."

Five people died in the fire. Andrew Mannors, 29, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Mabel Smith Roberts, 46, of Colwyn Bay, North Wales; Timothy Sharpe, 28,

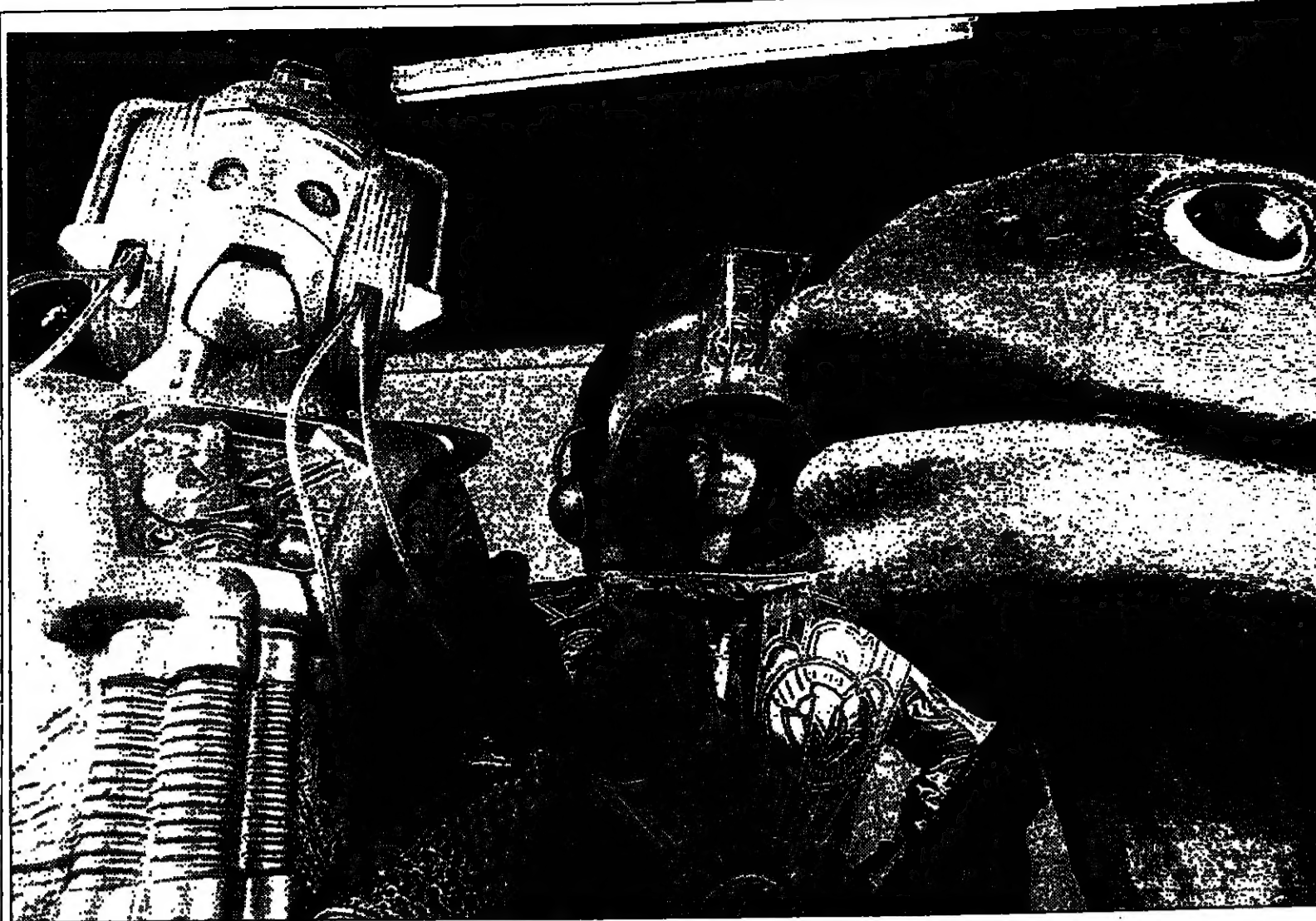
of Hove; Paul Jones, 33, and Adrian Johns, 32, both of Brighton.

An inquest is also being held into the death of Trevor Carrington, 38, of Brighton. At an earlier hearing, the coroner was told he had died after being hit by a lorry having told his brother he started the fire as a prank.

Terence Carrington, of Sevenoaks, Kent, said that his brother had telephoned him from his hospital bed after a failed suicide attempt to confess what he had done. He told the jury that Trevor had said: "I went out in the evening to two clubs in Brighton and then to a party. I left the party because I was bored and went down the stairs. I saw a settee and set light to it. I just did it to make them panic. I was drunk."

He was being treated after taking an overdose and then slashing his wrists. The next day he left hospital and threw himself under a lorry.

The inquest into the deaths of party guests was told by a fire officer that there were no fire precautions in the building. The hearing continues.



Cult couture: Cyberman, left, from the Dr Who television series, will be sold at Bonhams in London next week at an auction of science fiction costumes. Cat's gold spacesuit from Red Dwarf, centre, and Miranda the mermaid, right, will also go under the hammer

Breeders put on alert after theft of top greyhound

Bill Frost examines the darker side of hare-coursing and the motives of those who steal the sport's best performers

GREYHOUND breeders were advised yesterday to examine security at their kennels after the weekend disappearance of a champion hare-coursing brood bitch worth an estimated £14,000. Rogue sportsmen were blamed as fears rose that such robberies could now become commonplace.

The British Field Sports Society said "callous" enthusiasts or poachers were probably behind the theft of Glen Case in the small hours of Sunday morning. The four-year-old black bitch was among the top 60 hare-courers in the country, with a string of wins to her credit.

Jane Barrow, who trained the bitch at kennels in Aveley, Essex, said yesterday: "Glen Case has been stolen by people from the dark side of the sport. They will want to use her at illegal gatherings where tens of thousands of pounds change hands and no attention is paid to either the wellbeing of the dog or the hare. I warn them that I will leave no stone unturned to get her back."

Caroline Yeates, of the BFSS, said breeders should be on the alert. "There is a lot of trouble now with 'bad boys'. They set up illegal events simply to make money with no thought for the rules of the sport."

Hare-coursing, which some MPs and anti-blood-sports campaigners want to have banned, pits two dogs against their prey. Beaters raise the hare and propel the animal towards a field where the greyhounds wait in traps.

As the hare appears, two dogs are loosed and marked by judges for their speed and agility in the chase. Bets are laid by spectators on which will run closest to the hare.

Forcing the best from the hare can sometimes prove hazardous for the greyhound. At a meet in Coquet dale, Northumberland, Sheila's Stockings, a top courser, ran back to her trap when a hare stood his ground and sank his teeth into her nose.

There are no prizes for catching the prey in the legitimate sport. But the "rogues" attach a substantial cash bonus to a kill.

Police have told Mrs Barrow that searching for Glen Case will be like looking for a needle in a haystack. She agrees that once a greyhound has disappeared, the chances of recovering the animal are slim. "These people are quite capable of spraying a dog with blue paint to hide its identity. But I won't give up and a reward will be posted."

A spokeswoman for the League Against Cruel Sports said yesterday that she had no harm would come to Glen Case. "However, as far as hare-coursing is concerned, we still want the 'sport' banned. In our view it is worse than fox hunting."

Barman loses job appeal

A head barman sacked from a London nightclub for giving free drinks to his friends lost a claim for unfair dismissal yesterday.

Nine staff members were involved in a scam that cost the Rumours cocktail bar in Covent Garden more than £40,000 in one year. Ebury Bridge Industrial Tribunal was told. Simon Shum, 25, of Peckham, south London, was fired as bar supervisor and DJ in January after he was caught twice handing free drinks to friends.

The tribunal panel decided unanimously that Anthony Jacobs, the managing director, acted fairly in dismissing Mr Shum after he was named as a culprit by colleagues. Mr Shum denied handing out drinks and denied he had admitted the scam when questioned by bosses. He claimed that Rumours bosses sacked him because they wanted to clear out their old staff.

Mr Jacobs said that Mr Shum had been identified by two members of staff in a police confession. He said that staff had been "pilfering" and had not been ringing up the till correctly. Police were called in after staff were caught on security camera.

Edinburgh fest rivals call truce

BY SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE long-standing, sometimes bitter rivalry between the Edinburgh International Festival and the Fringe is to end, Brian McMaster, the festival's new director, said yesterday.

Speaking on the first day of his first festival, Mr McMaster said: "It has become very silly. We are each part of the biggest cultural event in the world and the festival would not be the same without the presence of the Fringe. Yet visitors get very confused when they find the two maintaining differing listings. We need to be jointly marketed." He was discussing this with the Fringe administrator, but it would require extra money.

Although the Fringe officially opened on Friday, some shows had opened a week earlier. There are 10,650 performances of 1,129 shows, making this the biggest Fringe since its inception 45 years ago. The festival has 97 projects and 248 performances, fewer than last year.

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Arts, L&T, pages 2, 3

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Exmoor group spurns plan for national park authority

THE scenery, wildlife and residents of Exmoor would be better protected if the government abandoned plans to set up an independent national park authority and instead expanded the park boundaries and placed it under local authority control, the Local Government Commission is to be told in Somerset next month.

The proposal will be put forward by the Exmoor Society, which has fought several local campaigns in defence of the park, acknowledged as one of Britain's most beautiful areas.

Guy Somerset, chairman of the society, whose members include conservationists, local landowners and people who live on Exmoor, says that the plans for an independent park authority do not go far enough. "To start with it will not be elected or accountable to the people of Exmoor and it will not have wide enough powers," Mr Somerset said. "It will run only to the park boundary but the development pressures do not stop there."

The future protection of one of the most beautiful wildlife areas in Britain is under discussion, Douglas Broom reports

The society has been particularly scathing about the planning record of West Somerset District Council, which covers three-quarters of the national park. It fought a lively campaign against plans to allow Butins to extend its holiday centre and build a funfair at Minehead, on the northern edge of the park.

"It was Exmoor which led the fight to stop the rooting-out of hedgerows and the ploughing of moorland," Mr Somerset said. "They said we were barking up the wrong tree and then suddenly everyone came round to our point of view."

"The local government review represents a unique opportunity to sort out the running of Exmoor and all the national parks. Apart from the two tiers of councils we have 25 government departments or agencies oper-

ing in Exmoor." The commission, which is carrying out the biggest review of local government for two decades, has no powers to examine the role of the national parks, but Mr Somerset said it should be prepared to present the plan to ministers who did have the power to act.

The proposals, however, face opposition from both existing local authorities and the present national park board, which is due to be replaced by the new authority. The board, run by a committee of Somerset County Council, argues that the plan would undermine its independence and prevent it concentrating on its principal role of conservation. It already has extensive planning powers to control unwanted development and restrict traffic in the national park and sees no point in getting tied down in

running schools or emptying dustbins.

That view is echoed by the Council for National Parks. A spokeswoman said: "National parks and councils have different functions. We need to be free to protect the parks, which might sometimes bring us into conflict with local government. We would not want to be part of it."

Philip Tearle, deputy town clerk of West Somerset council, said the society's plan for an enlarged Exmoor national park taking in Minehead and Quantocks would replicate his council's area.

Rejecting the society's criticism of the council's planning policies, he said: "All our planning decisions are taken in the light of local plans, which are only arrived at after extensive consultation with local people. We believe the best local government solution for Exmoor would be a unitary West Somerset council. I think you will find that is what most local people will want."



Leading article, page 11

An eye to the future: Guy Somerset says the park boundaries should be expanded because of development pressure

Oil rig survivor jailed

A survivor of the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster in 1988, when 167 died in explosions and fire, was jailed for 18 months yesterday for drug offences. Derek Ellington, 50, told Dumfries sheriff court that he smoked cannabis resin to help him cope with memories of seeing bodies.

Sheriff Kenneth Barr said he took into account mitigating circumstances. He backdated the sentence to April 10, when Ellington, of Dyce, Grampian, was taken into custody, and refused a Crown application for forfeiture of his £14,500 Saab car, in which police found drugs.

Ellington had been convicted on four charges of possessing and intending to supply drugs, involving cannabis with a street value of £12,000.

Mother in care

An unmarried mother, 23, who hurt her daughter, 3, into Tottenham Hale lock, north London, was ordered to be detained for a limited period in a mental institution. The girl, rescued by a local resident, will remain in care.

Arson escape

A widow in her fifties, her son in his thirties and three children aged between nine and 11 escaped when an arsonist started two fires at their house in Totton, Hampshire, as they slept. Police are investigating.

Abseiler hurt

Stuart Chorlton, 44, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, received serious spinal injuries when he fell 150ft as he abseiled down Beeston Tor in Staffordshire.

Out of service

Toddington service area on the M1 closed at midnight for three days because of resurfacing between junctions 11 and 12.

Video may help Alex, 3, pinpoint murderer

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DISCREET video cameras may be used by police to record attempts by a child psychiatrist to probe the mind of Rachel Nickell's son Alex to discover whether the three-year-old can provide evidence that will lead to the man who murdered his mother on Wimbledon Common a month ago.

The recording would provide a dispassionate account of the child's recollections that might be usable in court. The information would also be studied by detectives in the investigation and by Dr Jean Harris Hendricks, a consultant child psychiatrist in Bedfordshire who is helping Alex.

Professor Graham Davies, head of the psychology department at Leicester University and an international expert on the use of children as witnesses, said the law on the use of children as witnesses had recently been relaxed. While evidence could now be used without corroboration, Home Office guidelines say that children should be able to talk freely rather than be asked to comment or embellish on a story put to them, as had happened in several child abuse cases.

However, he said there would be difficulties in using a child as young as Alex as a witness in a court case, even if using closed-circuit television so that he did not have to sit in the courtroom. He would have to be available for cross-examination, although there were practical and ethical difficulties about cross-examining a child so young, he said. "I suspect a judge would take the view it was not in the interests of the child to suffer cross-examination."

Growing up after tragedy, EAT section, page 5



These are the trees



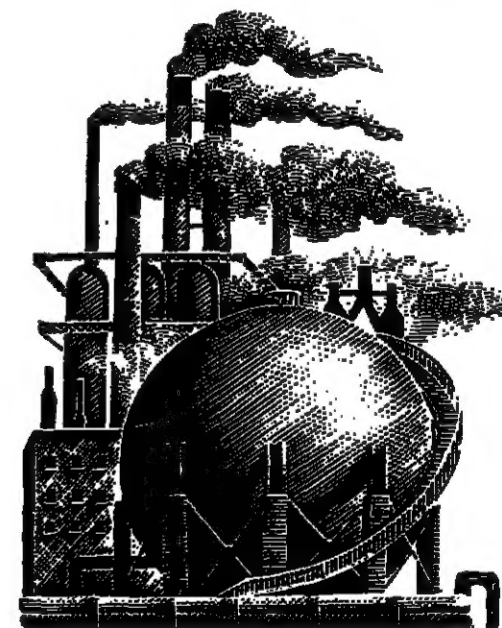
The Wilkinsons planted



With interest accrued on their savings



Which their bank had lent



To a chemical giant



That ceaselessly spews



Toxic waste.

Man suing for limp 'seen moving freely'

By DAVID YOUNG

A FORMER hospital porter who claims that a back injury ruined his sex life and left him with a limp after lifting an 80lb box of medical records was seen by a private detective running, jumping and lifting groceries into his car, Swindon county court was told yesterday. The detective said that the only time he saw Raymond Baughm limp was in the courtroom.

Mr Baughm, 47, of Swindon, Wiltshire, is suing Swindon health authority for damages, claiming he hurt his back lifting the box of records at Princess Margaret Hospital eight years ago and has not been able to have intercourse since.

Raymond Sheppard, who runs Drive Investigations with his father, Robin, told the court that he had secretly observed Mr Baughm on 40 occasions and had photographed Mr Baughm moving freely. He said he had watched the father of five jump, run, bend and twist

during a six-month surveillance operation. Michael Foy, an orthopaedic consultant at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Wroughton, said Mr Baughm was "malingering". Mr Foy said he had initially examined Mr Baughm and decided that his injuries were more psychological than physical. He defined malingering as "a conscious simulation of symptoms or disability, or a deliberate imitation of disease or disability for gain".

Philip Reed, representing Mr Baughm, said the court had already heard evidence from a psychiatrist who believed that Mr Baughm was not faking. He said Mr Foy, an orthopaedic consultant, had insufficient information to say Mr Baughm was malingering. Giving evidence, Mr Baughm denied going shopping on the day he was said to have lifted groceries into his car. The case was adjourned until later this week.

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THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Bush's bluff called after he tries to play the patriotic card

PRESIDENT Bush's last engagement before arriving in this convention city last night was to stop off and address a gathering of that most patriotic of all American organisations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It was a timely reminder, if any were needed, of the attraction of the uniform of commander-in-chief will always have for any incumbent running for re-election.

The president has not been helped, however, by what is seen in some quarters as a rather too transparent effort to play the military card against President Saddam Hussein. Whatever the truth of the allegation that bombings of up to nine official

targets in Iraq were planned to coincide with the opening here of the Republican convention, the uproar arising from it has clearly badly nettled the president.

He has called the story, which originally surfaced in *The New York Times* "a clear breach of security" while at the same time going on to declare: "I totally deny that we are trying to pick a fight, and I totally deny that we're trying to pick a fight for political reasons."

That kind of confusion and embarrassment can only have gratified the "officials familiar with administration planning" who leaked the story in the first place. The whole nature of the *New York Times*



Iraq could turn the electoral advantages of incumbency sour for President Bush, writes Anthony Howard from Houston

report strongly suggested a deliberate effort on the part of some well-placed sources to derail a military scheme of which they disapproved.

There has even been speculation that the leak may have come from within the defence department itself, if only because the armed services have always prided themselves on being above the

political process. The obvious indignation with which both the president and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, reacted to the story has even served to lend it a certain credibility.

Neither Mr Bush nor Mr Cheney made any effort to deny the central thrust of what both *The New York Times* and the *Chicago Tri-*

bune originally reported — that the threat of fresh air strikes against Iraq certainly existed, at least until the United Nations team of inspectors got their way yesterday, and may yet be brought into play again in defence of the Shias in southern Iraq. Instead, they concentrated their fire on what they regarded as the wholly improper political "spin" given to the report, particularly by *The New York Times*.

The resulting controversy has at least reminded everyone of the very real reserve powers that any president enjoys. As George Bush himself said when running against Ronald Reagan for the Republican nomination

in 1980: "The opera is not over until the fat lady sings" — in the role of "the fat lady". It is he who has the capacity to shape events and dictate the agenda between now and election day, not his opponent, Bill Clinton.

It is a power, however, that any president needs to exercise with great care. If one instant sealed President Carter's fate in 1980, it was the ignominious failure of the desert mission to rescue the American hostages then held in Iran.

And, through hard practice, the American electorate has perhaps acquired a way of noticing where its patriotic susceptibilities are being ex-

ploited for partisan purposes. In that sense, the real damage done to the administration by the exposure of what can be viewed as a perfectly legitimate military option lies in the fact that it surfaced at all. In itself, it probably restricts Mr Bush's freedom of movement. The White House certainly hopes that the threat to Saddam has had not just a temporary but a lasting effect. The lesson of President Reagan's bombing of Libya in 1986 is that such attempts to belittle international behaviour work best when they come out of a bright blue sky. The last thing Mr Bush can be looking for is a national debate over what sort of action it would be appropri-

ate for America to take in order to enforce UN Security Council resolutions.

But that is what he is in danger of getting. There are critical voices even within Mr Bush's party suggesting taking dramatic action against Saddam may no longer be a "plus for the president".

The argument put forward by one Republican senator has it that, once calculations of party advantage enter discussion, they tend to cloud the issue. Indeed, the cynical are muttering that the White House may initially have seen Baghdad as a surrogate for Sarajevo, where Mr Bush's failure to take action has come under sharp attack, not least from Mr Clinton.

Republicans adopt right-wing manifesto

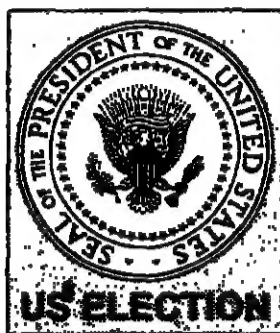
White House quells revolt on abortion

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN HOUSTON

PRO-CHOICE delegates at the Republican national convention gave the White House an early victory yesterday when they abandoned their fight for what would have been a divisive floor debate on a party platform that seeks to impose a constitutional ban on abortion.

Governor William Weld of Massachusetts and John McKernan, his compatriot from Maine, announced that they would not push for the debate after they were able to secure the backing of only four state delegations, two fewer than required. "The pressure from the White House was immense," Nancy Sternoff, executive director of the national Coalition for Choice, complained.

Organisers pronounced the abortion issue dead, although opponents believe it will this November cost President Bush the votes of possibly millions of women and political moderates. The convention later adopted a manifesto even more conservative than those of the Reaganite 1980s, particularly on social issues, which reflected the continuing strength within the party of the religious right.



Republican officials were hoping for a boost last night when Ronald Reagan, the former president, was to address the convention. There were also high hopes that Patrick Buchanan, who mounted a bitter conservative challenge to Mr Bush during the primaries, would throw his support wholeheartedly behind the president.

In a sudden welter of pre-convention interviews, Mr Bush declared himself fired-up for the autumn campaign and insisted he could still win because "the people will come to their senses". Campaigning in Indianapolis on his way to the convention, he declared that he had changed the world

and that he would now change America.

Mr Bush was arriving in Houston late yesterday amid signs of deep anxiety in the Republican camp — and with good reason — knowing that he must dramatically re-present himself to the American people. He trailed Bill Clinton by 17 points in a poll in *The New York Times* yesterday, by 23 points in a similar exercise in the *Los Angeles Times*, and by 15 points in a survey conducted by the *Houston Chronicle*.

His camp hopes that the so-called convention "bounce" will reduce Mr Clinton's lead to 12 points or fewer by the end of the week, but the detailed figures in *The New York Times* were more alarming for the Republicans than the headline figures. No fewer than 92 per cent of respondents said they believed America needed a real change, with just 15 per cent believing that Mr Bush can provide that change. The president invoked his Gulf war victory yesterday, but only 40 per cent of those polled approved of his current handling of Iraq; 48 per cent disapproved. Just 14 per cent approved of his



Supporting role: Pat Buchanan, the former right-wing candidate, and his sister and campaign manager, Bay, inspecting the convention floor from the podium in Houston yesterday after being invited there by Mr Bush

handling of the economy, the lowest figure of his presidency. The *Los Angeles Times* poll showed that Mr Bush had almost entirely lost the support of the so-called Reagan Democrats, the socially-conservative working-class whites who made up a critical part of the victorious Reagan coalition.

By 73 per cent to 15 they now prefer Mr Clinton.

But party spin doctors insisted that Mr Bush could still stage a rally without precedent in presidential history and win re-election, their optimism appearing to increase the more the president's ratings fall. "We sort of do well when we are 17 points down," said David Carney, the campaign's director of political affairs, promising a "September Storm" against Bill Clinton.

The party divide on economic policy became increasingly pronounced when Bob Dole, the Senate Republican minority leader, said the tax cuts announcement Mr Bush is said to be contemplating for his Thursday speech would be bad medicine for an economy living in the shadow of a huge national debt. Vin Weber, a Minnesota congressman and leader of Reaganite supply-side economic supporters, re-

torted that Mr Dole's comments "just make me all the happier that he's the Senate leader and President Bush is in the White House".

It looks more than likely that Mr Bush, whose speech could make or break his re-election chances, will embrace the idea of further tax cuts during his second term, paid for by spending reductions which would include politically risky cuts on entitlement spending. In doing so he will paint Mr Clinton as a tax-raiser without the courage to confront America's huge budget deficit.

Unconfirmed reports yesterday suggested that James Baker, the former Secretary of State and Mr Bush's new campaign manager, was trying to persuade key figures from the president's 1988 campaign to return to do battle this time. Those he has approached include Roger

Alles, the reputed master of negative advertising, and Ed Rollins, the strategist who defected to Ross Perot earlier this year. Mr Rollins is in Houston as a television commentator. Sig Rogich, a media presentation expert who left the White House to be America's ambassador to Iceland, is also said to be among those approached by Mr Baker.

A fresh row erupted between the Bush and Clinton camps yesterday after Robert Mosbacher, the Bush campaign chairman, resurrected the adultery allegations against Mr Clinton. He told reporters that questions about Mr Clinton's marital fidelity were relevant despite the president's edict that the candidates' private affairs should not become campaign issues.

Flight ban, page 1
Leading article, page 11
Life & Times, page 4

HOUSTON NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

Dead ducks and hopefuls trot out endorsements

WAS it wise to have Ronald Reagan, the oldest US president, blessing Mr Bush, the second oldest, on the opening night of the Republican convention yesterday? Yes, the Great Communicator would galvanise the faithful inside the Astrodome (so cavernous, the joke goes, that it could have hosted Jesus's bar mitzvah).

But elsewhere in America Mr Reagan's Teflon protection has gone. He cashed in too flagrantly on his presidency. The Cold war victor is now seen more as the man who led America into its present economic abyss.

White, working-class "Reagan Democrats", attracted by his social conservatism, now regard the 1980s as a decade when the rich grew richer at their expense and have returned in angry droves to their ancestral party.

There were other performers last night of dubious value to the struggling president. The party of "family values" had Tanya Tucker, an unmarried mother, sing the national anthem. There was Patrick Buchanan, who had mocked "King George's hollow army" and called Mr Bush a "warmed-over Jimmy Carter" during his savage primary challenge. Mr Buchanan would have to "crawl through broken glass" to get a convention address, a Bush campaign spokeswoman remarked later. But two weeks ago Mr Bush, desperate to



Reagan: now blamed for economic decline

shore up his conservative base, personally telephoned the columnist to patch things up.

There was Paul Laxalt, the former Nevada senator who Mr Reagan had really wanted as his 1980 running mate, a former Reagan aide disclosing last weekend that his boss had always considered Mr Bush an unlikely "wimp". Finally there was Guy Vanderhaeghe, the man in charge of all November's Republican congressional campaigns who contrived to lose his own primary in Michigan last month.

The Republicans did display an air of serendipity. Lowly officials had suggested getting Baroness Thatcher to address the convention. Fortunately the idea was shot down. In recent days the former prime minister has been the cheerleader

of American criticism of Mr Bush's cautious response to the Yugoslav civil war.

Seventy-one members of the Bush clan are in town for the convention. After Barbara Bush's "family values" speech tomorrow night, hordes of the younger ones are expected to join the first lady on the million-dollar podium. However, the 15,000 media people (roughly seven for every delegate) will be scouring the red carpet for one figure only — Neil Bush, the president's youngest son and national lightning rod for the Savings and Loan scandal. Neil lives in Houston, having fled here after his Colorado building society collapsed with debts of \$1 billion (\$523 million), but the betting is he will supply grandchildren only for tomorrow's display.

Whether Mr Bush's wins or not this November, the Republicans will need a new nominee in 1996, and that is this convention's sub-plot. The contenders are jostling for position as furiously as decorum allows. Most will be speaking, and this is a unique opportunity to set out their wares.

James Baker, former Secretary of State, and Richard Cheney, Defence Secretary, are the more mainstream contenders. But only one, Patrick Buchanan, makes no bones of his ambition. His Houston headquarters' telephone number ends with the digits 1996.

Likud in debt

Jerusalem: Israel's Likud party has run up debts of £10.5 million, according to an internal report. A committee blamed bad management by party leaders, who had allegedly failed to take into account the possibility of defeat in June's elections. (AFP)

Georgia warns

Sukhumi: Georgia threatened to use force to crush nationalist resistance in its breakaway region of Abkhazia. Tengiz Kiavani, the defence minister, gave an ultimatum to Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, to quit. (Reuters)

Treaty opposed

Copenhagen: Opposition to European union appears to have increased in Denmark since it was rejected by 51 per cent to 49 per cent in June. A poll now shows that 57 per cent of Danes oppose the treaty. (Diary, page 10)

Amnesty given

Kiev: To mark the first anniversary of Ukraine's declaration of independence, President Kravchuk has ordered an amnesty for all prisoners who have served a third of their sentences of up to three years for minor crimes. (Reuters)

Pope holidays

Rome: The Pope, who is recovering from intestinal surgery, began a two-week holiday in the Dolomite resort, Lorenzago di Cadore. He said on arrival: "The Dolomites can heal everybody... I came here to rejuvenate." (AP)

Tomb found

Rome: The discovery of Roman remains close to the leaning tower of Pisa, including the tomb of a child of ten who died in the fifth century AD, is threatening to delay urgent work needed to prevent the tower from collapsing.

Cursing taught

Sydney: Immigrants, often baffled by the local language, should be taught about swearing to help them adapt to Australian culture, Brian Taylor, director of Sydney University's language centre, said. (AP)

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Brazilian lawyers demand president's impeachment

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Brazilian Bar Association, representing lawyers from all 27 states, issued a statement yesterday calling for the impeachment of President Collor de Mello.

"There are strong indications, if not outright proof, of political irresponsibility committed by the president of the republic," said Marcello Laveren Machado, president of the Organisation of Attorneys of Brazil, consisting of more than 300,000 lawyers, judges and prosecutors.

The lawyers' declaration, delivered yesterday to the heads of Congress and the Senate, was the second indication of a public backlash against the president, after a damaging government corruption scandal. On Sunday, protesters in black armbands took to the streets in a dozen of Brazil's biggest cities for a "day of mourning" to demand Fernando Collor's removal from office.

A poll of 11 cities published in a São Paulo newspaper on Sunday showed that 72 per cent of those surveyed believed Senhor Collor was involved in

a government corruption scandal and 70 per cent favoured his suspension from office by Congress.

The demonstrations, consisting of perhaps half a million people nationwide, were sparked in part by the president himself. At the weekend, the quick-tempered Senhor Collor attacked "conspirators" against democracy. Appealing to "my people," the shirtless and shoeless Brazilian, he called upon Brazilians to flock into the streets to wear the "colours of the flag" in a show of patriotism.

It was the first time in weeks President Collor had broken his silence over a corruption enquiry into the dealings of his former campaign treasurer, Senhor Paulo Cesar Farias. Senhor Farias is under investigation by police and Congress for allegedly commanding a "parallel government", taking huge illegal commissions on public contracts and putting pressure on bureaucrats for private favours. Senhor Collor will also have to answer allegations that \$9.1 million (£4.7 million) went over the last two



Rosane Collor: \$20,000 monthly allowance

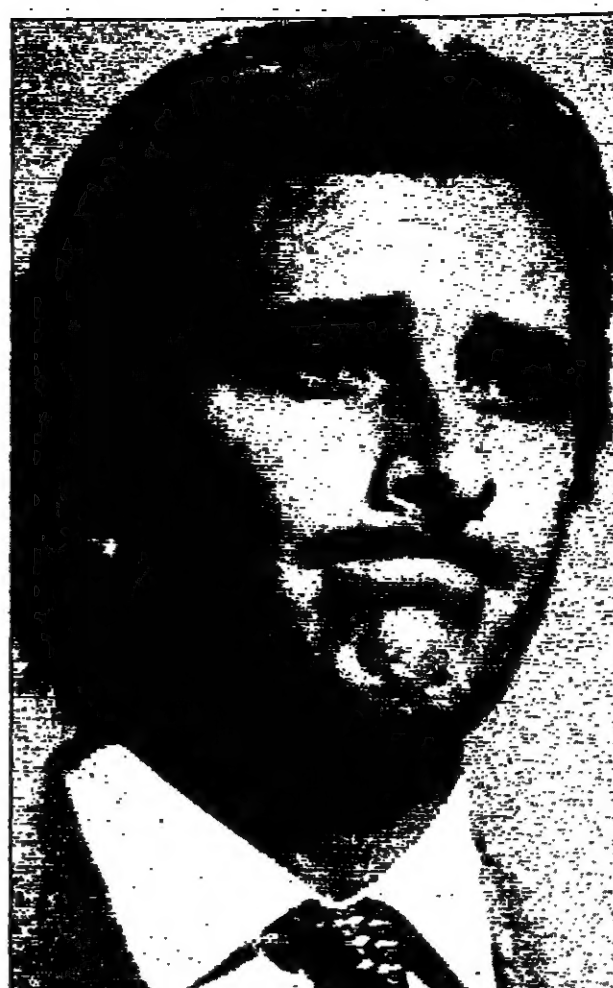
years into the account of his personal secretary, Senhora Ana Adeli, by "phantom" depositors linked to Senhor Farias. The president has also been scarred by allegations that Senhor Farias paid for the Collor family's expenses, including \$1.8 million in pool and garden repairs, and a \$20,000 monthly allowance for the first lady, Rosane Collor.

Senhor Collor's appeal to the masses backfired. A few supporters were bussed in

from the suburbs of Brasília, the capital, to cheer and wave Brazilian flags. But the rest of the country poured into the streets in protest. Instead of the green and yellow of the Brazilian standard, the protesters in Rio marched along the beach wearing black armbands, carrying blood-red banners and chanting: "Out with Collor."

In São Paulo, protesters simulated a funeral march for Senhor Collor, bearing black coffins down the broad Avenida Paulista that crosses the financial district. The *Folha de São Paulo*, a leading daily, has called for President Collor's removal, describing the protests as a nationwide demonstration of "mourning, shame and indignation."

In a few days a congressional panel investigating Senhor Farias is scheduled to hand in its final report, which could touch off formal impeachment in Congress. But Senhor Collor is handing out cash and jobs to loyal politicians, and Collor loyalists claim they have more than the 168 votes needed to defeat an impeachment vote in the Congress.



Fading appeal: President Collor's attempts to muster popular support have proved an embarrassing failure

US team clears way for airlift to Somalia

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN American military team arrived in Kenya yesterday in the first step of an ambitious American operation to deliver 145,000 tons of food to Somalia's starving people.

The first American relief flight is expected on August 24. Marine Brigadier General Frank Libutti and 34 military personnel arrived yesterday in a C-141 cargo plane to prepare the way for the American operation.

Thousands of Somalis have starved to death and experts say another 1.5 million could perish within weeks if food is not delivered immediately.

America plans to base its relief operation in Mombasa and hopes to use the remote northeastern Kenyan military base of Wajir as a springboard into Somalia. Four members of the military mission which arrived yesterday are to go to Wajir today to determine whether its airstrip is capable of handling a fully loaded cargo plane, the American embassy in Nairobi said. Food will arrive at Mombasa to be ferried either from there or Wajir by C-130 Hercules cargo planes into Somalia's interior.

Washington has also contracted an American firm to run a commercial operation into Somalia. It will sell food at low cost to Somali traders in an effort to "flood the market" with food.

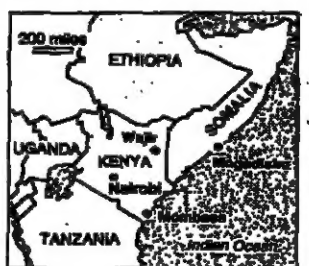
There has been little food available in Somalia's markets since November, when four months of fighting erupted in the capital, Mogadishu. The conflict closed Somalia's biggest port and slowed imports to a trickle.

Aid experts believe that, once food is readily available on the market, the economy will revive, prices will fall, tensions will ease and the random fighting, looting and banditry that is impeding relief efforts will be reduced.

Yesterday the United Nations said it would resume a food airlift to tens of thousands of starving people in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba, but rebels supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Army said the agency would do so at its own risk.

Dario Silovic, a UN official, said the relief flights, which were suspended on July 18 because of heavy fighting in Juba, would be resumed on Thursday with the full co-operation of the insurgents.

However, Elijah Malok, the director of a rebel-run relief association, said there was "not an inch of truth" to Mr Silovic's claims. "I told him there was no agreement to go into Juba, and that whoever goes, goes at their own risk," Mr Malok said.



Kabul says ceasefire unlikely

Islamabad: The Afghan government said in a statement yesterday it would be difficult to implement a ceasefire to get foreigners safely out of Kabul because renegade Mujahidin leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar could not be trusted.

Most United Nations staff have left the Afghan capital by road to the north but embassies have said they were waiting for better guarantees of their safety. Mr Hekmatyar's dissident Hezb-i-Islami faction has offered a conditional one-hour ceasefire to allow foreigners to leave by the airport as long as other planes do not try to use it.

His fighters pounded the Afghan capital for a 10th day yesterday to back their demands for the withdrawal of the Uzbek militia which once backed the former communist government. Diplomats said Mr Hekmatyar had always been uncomfortable in the ragged Mujahidin coalition that won power in April and would not be satisfied without total power. (Reuters)

Icebergs stray

Montevideo: Icebergs weighing up to 5,000 tons and 122 yards high have been spotted off the Punta del Este coast in Uruguay, an apparently unprecedented phenomenon in a temperate area of the Atlantic, about 35 degrees south of the equator. (AFP)

Forging ties

Taipei: Sun Boju, the vice-president of China's Red Cross, arrived here to strengthen co-operation with the Taiwanese Red Cross. He is the most senior mainland representative to visit Taipei since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. (Reuters)

Fewer flee

Hong Kong: Only nine Vietnamese boat people have arrived in the colony so far this year, compared to more than 20,000 all of last year, the monthly repatriation of Vietnamese proceeds smoothly under agreements between London and Hanoi. (Reuters)

Rail link plan

Bangkok: The Burmese government has proposed a rail link with Thailand along the "Death Railway" route built by Japan in the second world war at the cost of the lives of 100,000 Asian slave labourers and 16,000 POWs. (AFP)

Rock art found

Sydney: Rock art dating back 43,000 years has been found at a farm in the Olary region of South Australia, challenging the belief that the first such art arose in Europe, one of the scientists who uncovered the engravings said. (Reuters)

Long shot

Peking: Authorities in China's drought-hit Sichuan province are using 300 anti-aircraft guns to fire shells at clouds, hoping that it will encourage rain. It was not known if it had worked. (Reuters)

Vice-president traps accused police chiefs

Joseph Estrada, the Philippines vice-president, personally arrested two high-ranking police officers for alleged links to kidnap gangs, after tricking them into appearing at a news conference at his home.

In scenes reminiscent of his days as a film actor playing the role of a vigilante, Mr Estrada shocked the two officers by producing a surprise witness against them — a policeman who had confessed to being a kidnap gang member. "Right now they are ordered arrested," Mr Estrada said after the policeman identified the senior officers as members of a syndicate engaged in kidnapping Filipino-Chinese businessmen in Manila. Mr Estrada arrested the two officers in his capacity as chief of the presidential anti-crime commission, a new body formed by President Ramos to end the crime wave in the capital.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas, making a rare mention of the man who orchestrated their 1975-79 reign of terror in Cambodia, said that Pol Pot had definitely retired and no longer held any active posts.

Juanita Castro, sister of Cuba's President Castro, has urged him to resign and let

people in one of the world's last bastions of communism "enjoy freedom", the German weekly magazine *Bunte* quoted her as saying in an open letter to her brother.

Walter Momper, the mayor of West Berlin when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, has resigned as chairman of the local Social Democratic Party in a dispute over him joining the board of a local property firm.

Xiao Bin, 44, a Chinese jailed for 10 years after talking to foreign reporters about the June 1989 massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square, has had his term reduced by six months after accepting efforts to reform him, an official newspaper said in Peking.

Harry Schuler, 24, a New Zealand electrician who can stream louder than hi-fi stereo systems, unofficially broke the world screaming record in Christchurch with screams measured at 130 decibels.

Ariel Sharon, the pro-settlement housing minister in the former Israeli government, went into hospital in Tel Aviv for a gall bladder operation.

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سكرا في الوطن

Ethnic rivalry undermines struggle to save Bosnia

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN NOVI TRAVNIK

FRICITION between Muslim and Croat fighters is delaying attacks on Serbian positions and forcing the two factions on to the defensive, according to soldiers along Bosnia's southern "front" running northwest from Sarajevo.

Tension between the two has flared occasionally throughout the region, where Croats from both their own republic and Bosnia fight — out of necessity, not love — alongside local Muslims. But the ambivalent militia forces are saying that Serb fighters will hold a key advantage this winter unless Croats and Muslims unite, something which they are both unwilling to do.

"This war will go on until we can agree on joint action. The Croats are willing to co-ordinate, but under no conditions will we follow Muslim command," said Franjo Džurđević, a Croat fighter in Novi Travnik, a frontline town 40 miles west of Sarajevo.

The hills north of Novi Travnik are dotted with the forward positions of all three sides. Croats claim that they are doing most of the fighting to preserve Bosnia's independence. The Bosnian Muslims, for their part, suspect the Croats are themselves engaged in land-grabbing.

Even if Muslim and Croat forces in the region unite, they have little chance of repelling the Serbs at present because of their lack of artillery power. The region is kept alive by convoys transporting soldiers, arms and aid. The lifeline of the forces here are not tarmac roads linking the Dalmatian coast with inland Bosnia — they are open to Serb guns — but rutted dirt tracks over barren hills and through picturesque gorges.

● **Sanctions problems:** The European Commission may ban all transit traffic to Greece through Serbia and Montenegro in a desperate attempt to make sanctions against the recalcitrant republics work (Tom Walker writes). But the

plan, which would force lorries either to make a huge detour via Romania and Bulgaria to get to Greece or to take the ferry from Italy or Slovenia, presents problems. A ban would not only prove unpopular with Greece, but would contravene the existing UN Security Council terms for sanctions, which specifically state that transit traffic through Serbia and Montenegro is allowed.

And any Commission call for a ban on transit traffic would also breach the Transports International Routes (TIR) convention, which protects the rights of lorry companies to travel across third countries. Yesterday senior diplomats from all EC countries met in Brussels to discuss the problem.

Meanwhile, Romania is proposing a multinational task force for the Danube to police continued breaches of international sanctions against Serbia. Officials are holding informal discussions with a visiting team of experts from Britain, the current European Community president.

Romanian harbourmasters' logs show that ships under the Commonwealth of Independent States flag travel from the Black Sea port of Izmail almost daily up the Danube, through waters controlled by Romania, to the Serbian ports of Pančevo, near Belgrade, or Fribor, just inside the Serbian border. The logs indicate the cargo is largely steel, metal and coal, although one consignment contained cars. Only food and medicines are allowed under the international embargo.

Romanian officials say international agreements covering Danube river traffic stop them intercepting vessels which keep to international shipping lanes.

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Gorbachev evokes past with call on republics to form new union

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, called yesterday for the creation of a new union of states as the only way to prevent the economic and political collapse of Russia. Mr Gorbachev, whose resignation last December brought with it the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union, was speaking at a Moscow press conference held to mark the anniversary of last year's attempted coup.

Looking older and greyer, but with his rambling delivery unchanged, Mr Gorbachev presented a four-point pro-

gramme containing three well-worn Gorbachevian themes: the need for a new Russian policy document to guide Russia's future; parliamentary approval for such a document; and social consensus, including a social contract on the pace of economic reform "to enable very fundamental and radical changes to take place without anarchy and chaos".

Only when he came to the fourth point did he strike a half-new note, recommending that the Commonwealth of Independent States might

turn itself into a union, "recognising, of course, everyone's independence". While his words appeared to be a pitch for a role in Russian politics — something that has eluded him — Mr Gorbachev insisted that he was not trying to turn the clock back and denied that he was seeking to regain any sort of power. Were there to be a new union, he said, he would not stand for office. The point was to try to salvage the economic and political ties that would prevent collapse — an argument advanced recently also by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Mr Gorbachev indicated that the idea of a new union would be advanced — presumably by Mr Nazarbayev — at September's commonwealth summit. Mr Nazarbayev has set himself apart from most commonwealth leaders by calling for the establishment of central administrative and liaison bodies.

In his calls for social consensus and his hankering for a union, Mr Gorbachev gave the impression of being still cocooned in his old Soviet world, and several comrades from those days were on hand to give the impression that little had changed. Aleksandr Yakovlev, the father of glasnost, sat silently beside him; Andrei Gromyko, his former spokesman, stood in the hall.

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Treaty on Kuriles at hand

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN IN TOKYO

RUSSIA is ready to conclude a "treaty next month" on the "complete disarmament" of Kurile islands by the Japanese.

President Yeltsin told television stations, in an interview broadcast in Japan yesterday.

In the interview, recorded in his holiday home in Sochi, on the Black Sea, Mr Yeltsin said that after consultations with his defence minister, Pavel Grachev, he had decided that a withdrawal of Russian troops would be feasible over the next few years. He said he would be prepared to sign a disarmament treaty when he visits Japan next month.

Yesterday's statement represents a retreat from his earlier offer to Michio Watanabe, Japan's foreign minister, made in Moscow in May, when Mr Yeltsin indicated that troops could be withdrawn from the islands "within one or two years". The small chain of islands — Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group — were seized by the Soviet army in the closing days of the second world war but are being claimed by Japan.



Bosnia's agony: nurses hold down a crying girl, 3, wounded in a mortar attack, as she undergoes operation without anaesthetic in Gorazde

Muslims fly the white flag of subjugation

In Bosnia's villages, people once played football together. Now there is only hatred. Tim Judah writes from Alisici

ANYTHING will do. A pillow case, a vest, a rag or a sheet. So long as it is white. Across northern Bosnia thousands of Muslim houses are flying the flag of surrender. It signifies: "Don't shoot, we'll go without a fight."

The flags went up in Muslim Alisici two months ago. Weapons were handed over to the local Serb police without a fight and the village was told to run up the flag. "They said that if we did this then everything would be okay," said Hamdija. But you never know. Like everyone else in Alisici, Hamdija's bags are packed, he's ready to go at a moment's notice.

After the white flags went up, a typed slip from a Bosnian Serb army unit was pinned to the village notice board. It said: "The citizens of Alisici are ordered from today not to leave their village. Three people can go for supplies to Ostra Luka once a day between 7:00-10:00am. They should go to the checkpoint by the school."

On July 25 villagers said that Serbian troops raided Alisici. Cars, tractors, money and jewellery were taken. Fifteen men were hauled off to detention camps, and Medija Alisici, 32, was murdered. "We found her here," said her brother, Ahmet, pointing at the bloodstain on the sitting-room carpet.

The house is dusty now. Mrs Alisici's two little boys are looked after by the rest of the family. No one knows whether her Gorbachev husband in Germany has received the messages saying that his wife is dead. Phone lines went down a long time ago. A few days ago a message came through from a brother in Slovenia inviting her to stay. Mrs Alisici was buried by

him the mosque. "We had to put her there because we were scared that they might shoot at us from passing cars during the funeral," said Ahmet. The cemetery and village lie on the main road between the towns of Prijedor and Sanci Most. "She was the prettiest girl in the village," sighed one man.

The people of Alisici hope they can leave soon. Just after the army raid some policemen came to visit. "They were very polite. They told us openly you don't have to go, but we can't guarantee your security". So, of course, we all signed the forms saying that we were leaving voluntarily," said Hamdija.

Bags are packed and papers are stamped and sealed. But the people of Alisici have no means to leave. Like most of the rest of Bosnia, they have no electricity so they cannot watch television. Their radio batteries died long ago. They have no idea what is happening beyond the village. "Just help us get to Zagreb, please, we'll take it from there," Hamdija said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says that it will not be "blackmailed" into helping people leave northern Bosnia to facilitate "ethnic cleansing". One man in Alisici said: "Of course, we'd like to stay, but can the UN guarantee our safety?"

Three miles down the road is the Serb village of Ostra Luka. Here the talk is of those killed and wounded on the front. Before the war the people of Ostra Luka and



Alisici did everything together — weddings, funerals and football matches. Now the people of Ostra Luka say that their neighbours planned to murder them.

Danko, a young Serb policeman, said: "We captured documents and lists that prove what the Muslims were going to do to the Serbs here. We found hermetically sealed boxes that they were going to

put our kidneys and hearts in which they were going to send to Germany and France in exchange for tanks." Danko becomes evasive when asked if he has seen these boxes and where they are now. "They also had special gloves with spikes fitted on for gouging out eyes," claims another policeman.

The breach is total now. People in Ostra Luka, echoing the stories of local Serb politicians and the local media, say that most of the mosques in the area that have been dynamited were blown up by Muslim militants in an effort to stir anti-Serb hatred among their own people.

"Muslim and Croat fighters here have no heart," said Nada, as she grilled fish in her garden. "I don't know what we're going to do in winter, we've absolutely nothing." Her daughter, Biljana, flirted gently with a policeman and asked him how big a Heckler & Koch pistol was. "Quite small," he replied. "Well, Bozo Perovic has got one,"

she said pointedly. In Alisici they also worry about the winter. Their fear is such that no one sleeps in the houses along the road now. Two have already been torched. Sometimes the men go to sleep in the woods.

"You never know what will become of you," said Ahmet. ● Bonn, Germany, which has been pressing European Community members to take more refugees from the civil war in former Yugoslavia, is now moving to agree with the British view that the victims of the war should be helped to stay near their homes (Ian Murray writes).

Rudolf Seiters, the federal interior minister responsible for finding accommodation for refugees, said in Potsdam yesterday that accepting more now would send out a "wrong signal" to European countries refusing to share the burden. And Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said recently that accepting refugees would only help Serbia's policy of "ethnic cleansing".

Hospital operates without anaesthetic

FROM KURT SCHORK IN GORAZDE

THE young man looked like death in the gloom of his hospital room, a pale wraith with a short stump wrapped in blood-soaked bandages where his right leg should have been.

"This man had an amputation without general anaesthetic," Dr Alija Begovic said. "We don't have the painkillers or facilities for major surgery here... we use alcohol and local anaesthetic and do the best we can."

The Bosnian town of Gorazde had been under siege from Serbian forces for 146 days until a United Nations relief convoy arrived with nearly 50 tons of food and medical supplies on Saturday. Nowhere was Gorazde's desperate plight more evident than in the town's Isak Samokovlja hospital, where 60 patients were receiving rudimentary care in a building smashed by mortars and without running water or electricity. "Conditions here are disgusting," said Major Lawrence Linden, a French medical officer attached to the UN convoy. "I have seen this in Africa, but never in Europe."

One reporter, a veteran of many wars and battlefield clinics, was so distressed by an operating room where a three-year-old girl and a man in his thirties were undergoing surgery without anaesthetic that he left. Nurses held the girl down as she screamed in pain and the man writhed while a doctor probed deep in his shoulder wound for shrapnel.

"It is very hard to work without anaesthetic... we have very elementary conditions here," said Dr Begovic. "To listen to the cries of that young child is terrible." As he spoke, a 15-year-old boy walked into the clinic, gurgling blood from a month wound. "We need help, every kind of help," pleaded the hospital's director, Dr Asim Prutina. "We are treating horrible war wounds and we don't even have a surgeon."

The hospital, exposed to sniper fire, had hardly a pane of glass intact and many of its rooms were destroyed. "Even wounded people in the hospital are not safe from Chetniks (Serbian extremists)," said a resident of the town. (Reuters)

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Roll over, disc jockeys

The birthday of Radio 1 is no date to celebrate, writes Janet Daley

For those too young to remember (or old enough to be muzzy about dates), the fact that this year is the 25th birthday of Radio 1 will seem about right. After all, it was in the 1960s that British popular music lost its provincial tackiness and became world class. My recollection may be clearer than most because I came here in 1965, and my early expatriate impressions are peculiarly vivid. When I left America, the latest record releases from Britain were all over the airwaves.

So from a country where this explosion of foreign talent was reaching every remote corner, I arrived on its own home ground. To my astonishment, I discovered that here in Britain it was almost impossible (at least by American standards of accessibility) to hear the new popular music on the radio. The old Light Programme catered for tastes which were a throwback to the war years. There was something absurdly quaint called Radio Luxembourg. And that was it.

Difficult as it may be to imagine for those under the age of 30, Britain did not permit any privately owned radio stations at all (although, anomalously, there was commercial television, albeit heavily regulated). And for some reason nobody seemed to find this state of affairs alarming, even though a similar government monopoly of, say, the press or book publishing would be obviously sinister. (Imagine a British Newspaper Corporation producing one quality newspaper, one middle-brow newspaper and a cultural magazine, and all other periodicals being outlawed.)

But where there is a market with no legal supplier, there will soon grow up an army of illegal suppliers. Thus the pirate radio stations were born to fill the gap. The BBC responded to the challenge like a dinosaur being dived by a fly. With the complacency of a corporate monolith which is also a monopoly, it debated in a leisurely way whether the new music was fit to be broadcast at all. In paternalistic tones that now seem scarcely credible, it exercised itself over its responsibilities as a monitor of public taste, quite overlooking the fact that so much of the "respectable" popular music broadcast on the Light Programme was tastelessly banal.

But for popular entertainment to be crass and third-rate was no cause for alarm. What was worrying about this new force was that it was rude and socially rebellious. Opting for safety rather than success is the traditional British way. So the new pop industry might be the biggest economic miracle of the post-war years but its brashness was unfit for a public broadcasting service which continued, well into the 1960s, to offer mediocre pop as its mandatory crowd pleaser.

Radio 1 is patronising, dull and moronic. The tawdriness of its phone-ins and jokes have to be heard to be believed

By 1967, the paradox was too much even for the BBC. Pirate ships such as Radio Caroline were now making huge holes in what would have been the radio market share (had there been a commercial market) and the corporation looked in danger of losing touch with a whole generation. So Radio 1 was hatched begrudgingly, hedged around with self-imposed limitations and ambivalence about the whole enterprise. High-minded justifications were offered for steps which were really protectionist carve-ups. There was to be, for example, strict rationing of recorded music, supposedly because a non-stop record-playing service like that of pop stations in the United States was unacceptably mindless.

In fact, the restriction was imposed by the BBC's agreement with the Musicians' Union, which demanded that a proportion of all broadcast music be live. As it happened, these "live" musical contributions were tape-recorded performances by the sort of dance hall bands that had been the mainstay of the old Light Programme. With their company of resident singers, they would do embarrassingly awful "cover" versions of the latest hit records in a parody of what Light Programme listeners would have called "the latest craze".

A few of the pirate stations' more acceptable disc jockeys were recruited but the voice of Radio 1 was more like the old Luxembourg archness: self-conscious "characters" with exaggerated regional accents, or public schoolboys stopping down their accents to sound aggressively mature. And in the end this half-hearted attempt would not do. The BBC either did not understand what was really called for, or would not deign to offer it. So the pirates had to be brought home and legalised. Commercial radio was born, and under its spur Radio 1 gradually shed the dance bands, the cover versions of "hits" and the more egregiously avuncular disc jockeys.

Radio 1 is still dull, patronising and moronic. The tawdriness of its perpetual phone-ins and insulting jokes have to be heard to be believed. No disc jockey uttering such drivel would survive for a quarter of an hour on any two-bit local radio station in the United States. There is a wonderful passage in David Lodge's book *Changing Places* in which the visiting American professor, Maurice Zapp, becomes mesmerised by the dreariness of English disc jockeys, who seem to be determined to recite the names and addresses of all of their listeners.

Popular culture, when it comes from the bottom up, is still unrespectable. The fact that Britain's popular music is more influential internationally than its contemporary "serious" music has scarcely touched the old prejudices.

The council tax will further depress the housing market, says Tony Travers

Worse than poll tax?

The government is committed to a fiscal reform that will further depress house prices. From April 1 next year, a measure will be introduced that will reduce the value of houses throughout Britain. Nothing can stop it. Ministers' minds are made up.

This measure is, of course, the council tax. Chosen just 18 months ago to replace the ill-starred community charge, the new tax is already showing signs of turning into a fair imitation of the levy it will replace. Millions will be worse off and there will be complaints about fairness, particularly in the South-East, where house prices have plummeted. The many newspaper stories in the past few days about middle-income losers must leave ministers with an apocalyptic sense of *déjà vu*.

When Michael Heseltine drove a stake through the heart of Margaret Thatcher's dreadful monster, it seems that some elements of the procedure were not properly performed. Either it was not quite midnight, or the moon was not full. For the creature is risen again, in a new form, to stalk the corridors of Whitehall and to inflict new terrors on Tory voters.

The property-price terror has so far been overlooked. By moving from a tax on people to a tax on property, the government has adopted the ideal policy for driving down house prices. When the community charge was unveiled in 1986, ministers accepted in their green paper that because new housing cannot be built instantly, the effect of removing the then property tax — domestic rates — would be to drive up prices. It was estimated that 5 per cent would be added on average. If economic logic dictates that removing a tax from housing will push its price up, the average government adviser needs only a modest research capacity to work out what will happen if a tax is added to housing. Prices will fall. Perhaps by only a

small amount, but the direction is clear. Moreover, the region that will face the biggest increase in local tax bills next April is the South-East, which has already suffered most from recession.

Recovery in the housing market is widely seen as the key to economic revival. So it is likely that the council tax will come at precisely the moment when it will do the maximum damage to the chances of a recovery in property, notably in the south of England.

Today's Bank of England *Quarterly Bulletin* points to the fact that a tenth of households now have homes worth less than the value of their outstanding loans. Any additional downward pressure on prices, however small, would worsen this effect and further delay the possibility of an economic upturn. Ministers did not plan things like this. The council tax would rescue

the Conservative party from the poll-tax disaster. By the time it was introduced in 1993, the economy would be well into a recovery phase. Nobody would notice a marginal downward impact on house prices as economic recovery raised confidence. It is now clear that the impact of the new local tax could be to trample on some of the precious "green shoots" so beloved of economy-watchers.

Is it too late to do anything to avoid the predicted impact on property prices? Short of killing off the council tax, the answer is probably that it is. Council services have to be paid for, and it would be necessary to add 4 per cent to value-added tax to make the council tax vanish. Ministers looked long and hard for an alternative to the poll tax and were, in the end, forced back to a property tax.

There is a place for a property tax in our tax system. The amount collected ought, in the longer term, to be larger than is currently proposed if local authorities are to regain some of their freedom and responsibility. The council tax in 1993 will raise only 15 to 20 per cent of council income, or less than 10 per cent in Wales.

During one of the past orgies of house price speculation, a sharp rise in property tax would have been a jolly good thing. Commentators from virtually all points of view now concede that Britain should attempt to move away permanently from its boom-and-bust housing market.

If there is any sign in future that overheating is taking place, it would provide an ideal opportunity for the government to push up the yield of council tax, thus applying a downward pressure on prices while giving local authorities a bigger income base. Unfortunately, 1993 will be absolutely the wrong time to put a new tax on property.

The author is a research director at the London School of Economics.

Servant of too many masters

Conor Cruise O'Brien on the feuding at the United Nations

The United Nations is under greater strain now than at any time since the end of the second world war. The strain is falling on the pivotal relationship between the Security Council and the secretary-general.

Last week, while the Security Council was considering the Western draft resolution on Bosnia, the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali, sent a letter to the council warning that UN peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo could be endangered if the council authorised the use of military force to deliver aid to Bosnia. The council's response has been, in substance, to adopt the course against which the secretary-general warned: its authorisation of "all necessary measures" is universally understood as authorising the use of force if necessary. British diplomats add "in the last resort", but it is the Americans who will determine when the last resort has been reached.

Mr Boutros Ghali's disingenuous warning followed shortly on his denunciation of the Security Council for imposing tasks on the UN Secretariat and peacekeeping forces, while council members fail to provide the means either financial or military for carrying out the tasks in question.

In substance, Mr Boutros Ghali's complaint was fully justified, but the manner of its delivery was unprecedented. Under the charter, the secretary-general is something more, but not very much more, than a servant of the Security Council. He can draw situations to the attention of the council, can make recommendations to them, and has the duty of interpreting its decisions, often to the displeasure of some of its members. But no previous secretary-general has actually reprimanded the Security Council, as Mr Boutros Ghali has done.

All of his predecessors treated the council with at least formal deference, and all of them took care to attend its meetings, which it seems Mr Boutros Ghali is not in the

habit of doing. His relations with the Security Council are now such as to raise the question of how long he can remain as secretary-general.

The difficulties between secretary-general and Security Council are symptomatic of the great changes which the organisation has undergone since the end of the Cold war. As long as the Cold war lasted, with the Security Council deadlocked between the superpowers, both sides wooed the countries of the third world. The General Assembly was still of some importance, though in prolonged decline. The secretary-general was of considerable importance, as a mediator between East and West.

Since that time, the secretary-general, the General Assembly, and third world countries in general, have all lost influence. Consensus in the Security Council means that the other organs of the United Nations have dwindled. Under the charter, the General Assembly cannot discuss any matter of which the Security Council is seized. With the council fully operational, the General Assembly gets nothing of importance to discuss.

In theory, one might think that consensus in the council gives more authority to the secretary-general, who interprets the council's decisions. But that is not what is happening. In the major post-Cold-war decisions of the Security Council, it has been the United States, not the secretary-general, which has done the interpretation. So it was with Desert



Boutros Ghali: has US power made the secretary-general's job impossible?

Storm and so it will be over last week's Security Council decisions. To the secretary-general is left the task of implementing poorly funded policies over which the council is

vacillating, because the United States is vacillating.

It is natural that Mr Boutros Ghali should resent the downgrading of his own role. But he also

enhance the dignity and perceived legitimacy of the council. It would also somewhat diminish the inevitable predominance within it of the United States.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

The obituaries of Lady Rothermere have made interesting reading. The obituary in the *Daily Mail* was a classic of its kind. Phrases I particularly treasure include, "She didn't just walk into a room. She made an entrance." "She made most other people seem slightly shadowy." "Young and old were drawn to her like a magnet." "She was a great connoisseur of champagne, and would be any host who tried to serve her the wrong marque."

Two mentions were made of the fact that, as an actress, she had once played Sally, "the girlfriend of Douglas Bader", in *Reach for the Sky*, but the obituarist's sense of propriety prevented him from adding that Sally is the feckless girlfriend who, after Bader's disastrous crash, says something along the lines of, "No legs? I'm off."

There are moments when we in the British press can show extraordinary sensitivity; these moments usually coincide with the death of a proprietor, or a proprietor's wife. Many of the scrupulously generous obituaries of "Bubbles" Rothermere have paid tribute to her wit, all latching on to the same example. When asked for her verdict on the new nightclub, Regine's, situated just off High Street Kensington, she said: "This place will never succeed because it's too far out of London."

But was it wit? For me, wit is based on some kind of imaginative or ironic leap. From my small experience of her, I would say that Lady Rothermere's remark

was wholly sincere, even innocent, and owed nothing to wit. I once witnessed her at a party in a house on the border of South Kensington and Fulham, and she behaved with the type of panic others might feel upon finding themselves bundled into a sack to emerge blindfold in a dungeon in downtown Panama. It is a tale worth retelling as a pleasing parable of the problems created by an excess of wealth.

The party was being held to celebrate the opening of an exhibition of paintings. As I entered, Lady Rothermere was in the centre of the room, champagne glass in hand, dressed in one of her extraordinary bulbous creations, a sort of upmarket baby-doll negligee in bright red, with additional bows, flounces and what-have-you.

There is always a tendency at such openings for guests to chat among themselves, forgetting to study the paintings on display, but for Bubbles this seemed not so much a tendency as a point of principle. Nevertheless, she was obviously enjoying herself — no bad thing at any party — when suddenly she was summoned to the telephone.

Within seconds, pandemonium had broken out. "What are you SAYING?" "What's the point of having you if you can't understand A WORD OF ENGLISH?" "Oh, what's the POINT?" Such exclamations waited their way from the telephone area onto the floor of the exhibition, though everyone sensibly carried on as if such fraught conversations were quite routine

at all the best openings. "Here — YOU." Lady Rothermere beckoned a young man — as far as I know, a total stranger — to the telephone. "For God's sake, tell her where we are!"

The young man took the phone, and tried to spell out the address. Lady Rothermere snatched back the telephone. "Have you got that, then? What? WHAT? She looked around the room in exasperation. "Someone else! Quick, quick!" Again, she bawled someone to the telephone, and again the poor person tried to struggle with her problem.

The problem, it emerged, was this. Lady Rothermere had been driven to the flat by a chauffeur, and thus had no idea of where she was. On the telephone was her maid (Portuguese, if I remember rightly) who in turn had Lord Rothermere waiting on the other line. Lord Rothermere, due at the party, was speaking from his own chauffeur-driven car, with no idea of where he was meant to be.

Thus the husband who wanted to know where he was going was asking the wife who didn't know where she was, and all via the maid who couldn't speak English. Meanwhile, guests were being dragged to the telephone one by one, only to be replaced by someone else at the first sign of any middle.

"With the instinct of the born hostess," wrote her obituarist last week, "she always knew when to move people on or create a diversion." Hear, hear!

Viking invasion

TORY anti-federalists have summoned reinforcements in their battle against the Maastricht treaty at the party conference next month. A Danish invasion of Brighton is planned — led, the anti-Maastricht campaigners hope, by Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister. He and the victorious architects of the "Nej to Maastricht" campaign can expect to be fêted at fringe meetings and campaign rallies all over town.

Ever since the Danish referendum, anti-federalist Tory MPs have maintained close links with their Danish counterparts. Last month Henrik Ovelgaard, one of the *Nej* leaders, met Tory MPs including Bill Cash and James Cran in London to help plan the British campaign. Knud Pedersen, one of the founders of the 20-year-old Anti-European Community Movement, also visited London to address the Conservative European Reform Group and the Campaign for an Independent Britain.

Sir Richard Body, the only Tory MP to fly to Copenhagen for the *Nej* vote, says: "We will be inviting our Danish friends. It is a very attractive idea for them to be with us." The Danes are keen to come. Hans Kluster, secretary of the Danish Anti-EC Movement, says: "We would like to go and address a meeting with Lady Thatcher. We hope she will speak."

Top of the Thatchers' invitation list is Schlüter. The Danish prime minister, however, is only likely to accept if he has resigned from office, which, according to Danish press speculation, is an increasing possibility.

The Tory MPs are already searching for the nearest Danish restaurant to the conference centre to wine and dine their counterparts, and Danish nannies are



certain to feature prominently on the menu of many a Brighton seafront tearoom.

● Schoenberg has never been the easiest of composers, as Willard White will confirm. The American baritone, playing *Moses in Schoenberg's* *Moses and Aaron* at the opening performance of the Edinburgh International Festival, stopped one rehearsal and declared in exasperation to the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the 200-strong Festival chorus: "Who does this guy Schoenberg think he is?"

Beyond the grave

THE Edinburgh Festival would not be complete without at least one bunch of iconoclasts declaring the Fringe has grown too respectable and announcing they are setting up a fringe on the Fringe. Variete Chamaleon, the 14-strong Berlin cabaret act, are the first act this year to go beyond the Fringe.

Members of the troupe are disappointed by what they call "the middle-class aspiration" of fellow performers, and have decided to take their cabaret not to the streets but to the Greyfriars Cemetery where, presumably, they hope to attract a different kind of audience.

"We want to perform to the average person in Edinburgh," says Hacki Ginda of the troupe, "the cemetery seems like an ideal location. I think if I was dead I'd appreciate someone dancing on my

grave." Edinburgh District Council, however, are wary of the venture. "They need to ask us first. A street is one thing but a graveyard is quite another."

Sixth sense

AUDIENCE at the one-woman show *Extraordinary Women*, which opens in London next month, may consider that its star Susannah Self is the most extraordinary of all. Jackie Kennedy, Maria Callas, Mary Queen of Scots



and Medea are among the portrayals the actress will tackle in the course of the evening at Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead. But nestling alongside the crowns and tiaras, who on earth is Shirley Hawkins? Ask the crime squad, who know her well. Self's sixth extraordinary woman is a professional shoplifter, and her favourite of them all. "The inspiration for the character was a copy of *The Sun* I found in a dustbin."

● While the knives are being sharpened in the approach to the Tory conference, George Weiss, leader of the Rainbow Connection, is promising that his party conference will be a model of tranquillity. The date has been set for October

9, the last day of the Tory conference and John Lennon's 52nd birthday. Weiss has also declared the occasion "European peace and harmony day", a sentiment John Major will hope reaches as far as Brighton. Perhaps the Tories should imitate the Rainbow conference. In place of contentious resolutions there will be a dozen Lennon songs, including such classics as "We Can Work It Out".

Red route

COMMUTERS in the South East braving late, dirty and generally unpleasant trains can take comfort that Ken Livingstone, well known champion of commuters' rights, has taken up the cause. Except that the former GLC leader, the architect of the ill-fated "fares fair" cheap travel policy, has become whatever is the transport equivalent of a poacher-turned gamekeeper. Livingstone is currently to be heard as the mouthpiece of British Rail, advertising the delights — and the cheapness — of Network SouthEast on Capital Radio. Livingstone is at present holidaying in America, where he has surely eschewed the stretch limousine for what the Americans refer to as "mass transit". A spokesman for British Rail says: "We decided to use him because as a Londoner he uses the train and is almost becoming a personality." Almost?

● The decision of the majority of dentists to refuse to take on more National Health Service patients in protest at fee cuts takes up almost the entire front page of *The Probe*, the journal of the profession. The magazine is full of letters from dentists highlighting poor pay and conditions. Advertisers seem unconvinced. The present issue contains a brochure advertising holiday property deals in Tuscany and other exotic locations. For a minimum £2,000 investment

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LAST YEAR'S MAN

There is a note of smug irony in former President Gorbachev nowadays as he looks back over the momentous changes in his country since the bungled coup that briefly deposed him a year ago tomorrow. President Yeltsin's beleaguered position is beginning to resemble his own before the coup.

Industrial output is still falling as economic reform bogs down. Ethnic clashes continue along the periphery of the ramshackle empire. Nationalists, making common cause with hardliners in the now illegal Communist party, accuse Mr Yeltsin of selling out to Western capital. Crime, corruption and extremism are rife. The army is restless. Rumours spread of a new coup.

The former Soviet leader is far from reconciled to his loss of power. He has repeatedly forsworn a return to elected politics. But his speeches at home and abroad show a hankering still to play a significant role in his country's future. His personal antagonism to Mr Yeltsin has, if anything, sharpened over the past year. He sees the new man in the Kremlin as the chief enemy of his possible rehabilitation. A series of petty slights, reminiscent of the way unpersuaded were treated in communist days, has driven him into more and more pointed opposition. In his warnings of possible revolt and dictatorship he imagines a country summoning him, like de Gaulle, from retirement to safeguard democracy.

Russia is not listening to the prescriptions from Colombes-les-Deux-Dachas. Mr Gorbachev's call for a new union of states may make economic sense in the long run. Today it is naive and out of touch, an apparent attempt to justify with hindsight a failed "commonwealth" that had neither commonality nor wealth. Mr Gorbachev has misread the changes that have happened since he left office. Mr Yeltsin has indeed suffered a sharp fall in popularity. But no politician in the cacophony of competing recipes for Russia's salvation can expect to sustain the 90 per cent support that Mr Yeltsin earned after his heroic stance stop a

tank. For all the grumbling, the disillusion, the street demonstrations, Mr Yeltsin's popularity is still higher than Mr Gorbachev's was in his final two years.

The true difference is that Mr Yeltsin's authority is derived from the ballot box. Despite calls for a return to authoritarian rule to cure the social and economic malaise, most Russians still have an unslaked thirst for democracy. What they have not yet developed, are institutions, to make that democracy durable.

The bickering of parliamentary factions, their constitutional challenge to the prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, the power struggle between the reformers and the old apparat in the town halls, the maverick ambition of vice-president Rutskoi, all have thwarted the reforms that Mr Yeltsin promised his electorate. He has therefore increasingly resorted to presidential decree. But he is not attempting to bypass democracy. For most Russians he is, to a dangerously exposed degree, the sole embodiment of their fledgling democracy. They do not want to see that destroyed.

In dwelling on the evils of inflation, price rises, unemployment and strikes, Mr Gorbachev ignores much of what has been achieved over the past year. The stifling dictatorship of central control has mostly been swept away. Prices have been freed, bureaucrats humbled, entrepreneurs given their head, the country opened up physically and psychologically to the outside world. But the cost has been high: Russian heavy industry lies in bankruptcy ruin.

Mr Gorbachev can rightly claim credit for steering the country to the brink of change. Without his glasnost a Brezhnevite communist party might still be in power, erecting new iron curtains against reformers in the rest of eastern Europe. But his time is done. Today belongs to Mr Yeltsin. He proved himself a more courageous politician in facing up to the logic of democracy and a market economy. He has the legitimacy to continue the long march of reform.

PRESERVING A PARK

Parish pump politics can be the most passionate kind. Who is to decide how to keep an area of great natural beauty both unspoiled for visitors and profitable for those who live there? Who may build a garage onto a thatched cottage and who may not? Bitter argument regularly erupts over the use and appearance of some of the finest landscape in England, such as the moors and villages of north Devon and west Somerset which make up Exmoor.

The "big is beautiful" reform of local government of the Edward Heath era survived Margaret Thatcher only to meet its demolition man in Michael Heseltine last year. Now a commission is to tour the country abolishing, merging and occasionally dividing local authority areas. Next month it is due to look at Exmoor, where local government is a victim not just of bigness but of labyrinthine complexity.

The Exmoor Society yesterday made a novel contribution to this local government debate. It urged the setting up of a new Exmoor national park local authority, sweeping aside not just two tiers of elected local government but also the appointed national park authority, leaving just one fully elected authority.

At present the Exmoor National Park Board has to share its responsibilities not only with local district and county councils but also with some 25 other government departments or agencies. As a local government structure this is neither efficient nor responsive.

National park authorities have some of the planning powers of local authorities but their membership does not represent the local community. Because of overlapping jurisdictions they have often been in conflict with local groups. The proposed single tier

authority may therefore sound like a surrender to local interests, especially an electorate of farmers, farmers and land-owners whose concerns are assumed to be more economic than aesthetic.

This is shortsighted. Tourism and leisure can no longer be regarded as inimical to the serious business of land management. The new agricultural revolution has pushed tourism to the top of the nation's land use priorities. Those who own the land and use it, and those who visit it and enjoy it, have a new coincidence of interest. The same coincidence has happened in the fishing villages which dot the West Country coastline. Villagers may still be partly dependent on fishing, but they depend at least as much on holidaymakers.

The old rural conflict between pleasure and business, between locals and visitors, country and town, is coming to an end. So is the assumed conflict of interests between those who manage a national park and those who live and work in it. And so, therefore, is the theory which says the latter can elect their local councils, but the wider public interest in conservation and the environment cannot be trusted to them and must be imposed on them by a body of outsiders. It is not in the interests of a rural community to deplete its greatest economic asset, its landscape, in pursuit of some other economic good.

As the Exmoor Society says, the best people to look after Exmoor are likely to be the people who live there, under a unitary elected authority. The wider national interest in the conservation of the moorland can be met by the enforcement of planning law and by the existing appeal system. If conflict there is to be, then it should be between a local council and a national interest, not within a plethora of local authorities.

BLAMING THE BELTWAY

At a certain moment in every election, somebody steps forward to deplore the role of media manipulation in influencing its course. Ross Perot launched an entire candidacy on the basis that such manipulation had taken his rivals so far from the mood of the "ordinary voter" as to need urgent rectification.

His chosen means was to go straight to the people... tell them like it is... look them in the eye and tell the truth. And the means by which he did so? Via the media, of course. Mr Perot indeed was not an alternative to media manipulation. He was manipulation pure and unadulterated. He went on every television programme. He hogged the chat shows with his homespun homilies. He bought advertising time across the nation. He invited telephone callers to ring in their support. Electronics were the way into the homes and hearts of the American people. Electronics would be his husting.

The only real change that Mr Perot brought to the campaign, apart from a momentary excitement, was to suggest a better form of manipulation. American campaign politics remains, to the European observer, curiously old-fashioned. The big rally, the visits to every state, the glad-handing and the baby-kissing, the silly hats and balloons all seem to hark back to days when candidates belted their promises from the backs of railway carriages.

To this has more recently been added the photo-opportunity and the sound bite, both attuned to the needs of television and the press. Both are easily stage-managed. The scene to be visited can be scouted and the one-liner prepared in advance, to be parroted at every stop. Even the most risky of encounters, studio interviews and debates, are prepackaged, with "hosts", chairmen

and journalists set to cross-examine the candidates on subjects agreed in advance. The topics are those in common currency. The result is bland and unappealing. Like watching grand-prix racing, the thrill lies in the possibility of an accident.

Mr Perot recognised that the two chief means of communication used by virtually every American are the television talk-show and the telephone. By combining the phone-in with the talk-show, he was able to convey his reaction to the "concerns of the average American" more immediately than by any other form of mediation. He needed no journalists to ask him questions culled from the morning's press. He needed no carefully prepared position papers. Provided the policies are bland enough, so can be the risks a candidate may take in advancing them. He can even risk a straight phone-in question from an ordinary voter.

Now that Mr Perot's candidacy is no more, his lesson appears to have been learnt by Bill Clinton and George Bush. They too are taking to the talk-shows. They too are risking live encounters with voters. Mr Clinton even treated a live audience to a few bars on a saxophone. But to what end? The purpose is no different from that which led Roosevelt to his whistle-stops. Kennedy to his television debates and Reagan to his waves from the steps of helicopters.

Campaigns are about the diverse images that merge to make up a picture of confidence and trust. To be sure, these are derived from the media. But anybody who supposes that such images can be free of manipulation is mistaken. The only consolation is that manipulation can go so far, but no further. Ultimately, the truth will out. That message, at least, remains from Mr Perot's failed campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Guildford Four: quest for whole truth

From Lord Scarman

Sir, As I understand the official announcements (report, August 1; levers, August 6, 8) the May enquiry will end without any further public hearings in the Guildford and Woolwich court cases and without the publication of a final report, other than "a draft report" to be made available to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

I sympathise with Sir John May in difficulties not of his own making. But closing down his enquiry in this way will have the serious consequence that he shall be deprived of a full public investigation into "the circumstances leading to and deriving from the trial" of the Guildford Four, as promised to us by Sir John's terms of reference.

Sir John's task is to enquire into and report upon facts. The royal commission's task is to study and report upon general issues of law reform. One very important area of fact has not yet been fully investigated by Sir John, namely the extent to which the conduct of police

officers of far greater seniority than those presently accused of perverting the course of justice may have contributed to the miscarriage of justice that ultimately ensued in the two cases.

Unless Sir John has the opportunity to enquire into all the circumstances and to do so publicly, I cannot see that the whole truth will ever be known. The opportunity to find the truth will slip away if the arrangements now proposed for winding up the May enquiry are implemented.

If the delays that have arisen in bringing the presently accused police officers to trial mean that Sir John cannot complete his enquiry until they have been tried, so be it. It is very much in the public interest that the full facts relating to this serious miscarriage of justice should be made known, even if we have to wait for it.

Yours etc,
LESLIE SCARMAN,
House of Lords,
August 13.

Lone parent benefits

From the Chief Executive of Gingerbread

Sir, We take issue with your report ("Like considers benefits cuts for unmarried mothers", August 13). Child benefit and one-parent benefit are not paid to lone parents as additional benefits on top of income support. Both are deducted from income support payments and lone parents receive no extra money.

All working parents on low incomes are entitled to claim family credit after working 15 hours per week, rather than the 24 hours previously required. There is no special provision for lone parents.

There are now 1.3 million lone parents in the UK; the figure has never been as high as the 1.5 million referred to in your article.

While it is true that lone parents can earn more than parenting couples before losing housing benefit, the amount involved is £25 per week. This would cover only half of the average weekly costs of childcare, which is a necessity for any lone parent trying to get off benefits and back into the workforce.

No lone parent will receive the

maintenance payments traced by the Child Support Agency as additional payments on top of income support. They will be deducted from lone parent income support payments.

Yet lone mothers who do not wish to create hostility towards themselves or their children by naming their ex-partner will have their benefits cut.

Rather than eroding this low level of support, the government should use its creative energy and resources more effectively by making affordable childcare available to lone parents, most of whom are prevented from working only by the abysmal lack of childcare facilities.

The fears of Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, that a rise in lone parenthood would increase crime rates are groundless. Home Office figures published last month prove that poverty is the major factor in pushing up crime rates. The way out of the poverty trap is not through moralising and financial penalties, but through childcare facilities that enable lone parents to return to work.

Yours sincerely,
MARY HONEYBALL,
Chief Executive, Gingerbread,
35 Wellington Street, WC2.

Privatised services

From M.R.A. Painter

Sir, Paul Rigg, county treasurer for West Sussex, makes a spirited and persuasive defence of local government in his article, "Doing away with the doom-mongers" (Management, August 11). However, he makes the same mistake as other apologists for the enormous cost of local government by assuming that local services must be provided by complex local bureaucracies.

Local government is a collection of unrelated services held together by the common need for finance. In management and operational terms there is no reason why roads, education, planning, social services, fire, refuse, libraries, environmental health and trading standards should be run by the same organisation. Nor is there any justification for their being discharged by public employees nominally controlled by councillors elected by a tiny minority of the electorate.

Apart from a small group of publicly accountable officers of high quality with responsibility for policy, strategic planning and finance, all local government services could be privatised.

It is unfortunate that the government is once again tinkering with the structure of local government without first considering its functions.

Yours faithfully,
A. PAINTER,
2 Craigwell Lane,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Cost of planning rules

From the Vice-President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, We should not over-react to the evidence advanced by the Council for the Protection of Rural England that councils are being intimidated into giving dubious planning permissions for fear of paying costs if they refuse (report, August 8).

In relation to the number of appeals against refusal of permission, costs are awarded against local planning authorities in very few cases. Costs are not a deterrent in the vast majority of cases where sound planning reasons, environmental or otherwise, are given as a basis for turning down a proposal. This process is assisted by the greater importance now accorded to the integrity of the development plan.

Soir mait

From the Editor of What's Brewing

Sir, There was a strong whiff of sour malt emanating from Bass's comments on Woodford's Norfolk Nog, the winner of the Champion Beer of Britain competition at Olympia last week (report, August 5).

You quoted Mr Neil Bain of Bass as describing the beer as "quite harsh". I ordered a half pint, following its victory, and would describe it as having a rich backcurrent fruit flavour with perfumy hop notes, a fine balance of malt and hops in the mouth and a long fruity finish. I detected no harsh flavours.

Bass, according to your report, feel that "they are sneered at by the Camra [Campaign for Real Ale] coterie simply because they are big

and commercial". Two points: in 1990 Ind Cooper's Burton Ale, part of Allied Breweries, won the beer championship; and the judging panels at the championship are not made up just from Camra members.

I sat on the mild ale panel this year with two distinguished brewers, Mr Reg Drury of Fuller's and Mr Charles Eld of Morrells of Oxford, along with the cellarman from a pub in south London. The final judging panel included Mr Fritz Maytag of the Anchor Brewery in San Francisco, who does not brew real ale by Camra's definition; Mr Bill Tidy, the cartoonist; Mr Colin Dexter, author of the Inspector Morse novels; and Ms Catherine Maxwell-Stuart of Traquair House, the stately home in Scotland.

I do not know if any of them are members of Camra because nobody

Pitfalls of Balkans intervention

From Lord Merlyn-Rees

Sir, Lady Thatcher (letter, August 14) is talking and writing about Yugoslavia with obvious lack of knowledge of the history of the Balkans and without experience in this field in the second world war.

"Air strikes" without the benefit of ground control from very near the target would be grossly inaccurate. Ground controllers would need to be part of a land military formation, with all the technical back-up involved. It would not all stop there, as those who knew the Balkans in 1943-5 could testify. Air strikes will never win the guerrilla war that would ensue.

I speak not from my experience as an ex-army and RAF minister in the 1960s but as operations officer to 324 Fighter and then Fighter Bomber Wing through Sicily to Salerno, to Anzio, to the South of France, and as someone who was briefed to be ready to be part of an airborne takeover of a Hungarian airfield in 1945. From Klagenfurt and Zellweg I saw the result of the hatreds of the Slovenes, Croats and Serbs at first hand.

Sicily and Italy were not the desert. Yugoslavia is not Iraq. Lady Thatcher is wrong.

Yours truly,
MERLYN-REES,
House of Lords,
August 14.

From Mr R. N. G. Stone

Sir, The view expressed in some letters, most recently by Dr Roy Turner (August 14), that the situation in Bosnia is so awful that we have a moral duty to intervene militarily whatever the consequences, should be rejected out of hand by the government.

If we could give our soldiers a clear military objective, with an overwhelming chance of success and the promise of negligible casualties, there might just be a case for ordering them to intervene in a war where Britain's security is not re-

motely threatened; but to risk their lives in order that the rest of us can sleep better, knowing that we have done our moral duty, is not morality but moral self-indulgence.

Yours faithfully,
R. N. G. STONE,
92 Foxwell Street, Worcester.

From Mr Milan Krneta

Sir, In your leading article, "No peace for Serbia" (August 15), it is stated that to countenance a Greater Serbia will lead to "a massive defeat for international law".

Surely this defeat has already taken place with the dismemberment of the sovereign state of Yugoslavia and the recognition of some of its constituent republics as countries in their own rights, without the due process of international law having been applied in a court to define true international borders based on historical and ethnic grounds.

Yours faithfully,
MILAN KRNETA,
157 Grange Road,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Noel Ayliffe-Jones

Sir, The attack on the small town of Konjic, in eastern Herzegovina (photograph, August 12) shows the blatant and cynical approach of the Serbs.

Konjic, which I visited last year, is a small town of about 90 per cent Muslim inhabitants. It can have but one attraction for the Serbs: its ammunition factory, a main source of the town's employment.

The Serbian intention in my view will be to remove the machinery to Serbia. It is probable that they have already done this at the other arms factories in the neighbourhood of Sarajevo. Thus they disarm their enemies and enhance their own capabilities.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NOEL AYLIFFE-JONES,
1 West Dean,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
August 16.

Opera House leak

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, The leaking of selected extracts from the unfinished Warnock report on the Royal Opera House (Diary, August 11), timed to coincide almost exactly with the curtain falling on the last night of the Covent Garden season, will inflame an already difficult situation. The Arts Council, which commissioned the Warnock report, appears happy to see these extracts released in this way whilst Jeremy Isaacs is abroad and the Opera House is dark.

The Arts Council is supposed to provide a buffer between the clients that it funds and the government. Yet it is not democratic nor is it independent. It is simply the toady of the Department of National Heritage and neither is honest enough to speak out on this matter in public.

Instead they appear happy for information to be leaked to selected journalists. Both the Opera House and the taxpayer deserve rather better.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
Stanford Lodge,
Dun Road, Hadley Green,
Barnes, Hertfordshire,
August 11.

Stowe heritage

From Mr C. J. G. Atkinson

Sir, If Stowe School had not been founded in 1923, Britain's finest Palladian mansion and landscape garden could have been lost to the nation for ever. Yet Rowan Moore ("Stopping the clock at Stowe", Weekend Times, August 1) implies that the National Trust stepped in to rescue Stowe from "clumsiness", "neglect" and "mistreatment".

Mr Moore fails to recognise the enormous contribution made by Stowe School in first saving and then preserving one of the supreme masterpieces of our English heritage. It has given precious life to a great family home, which in turn has inspired almost 10,000 people who have lived there over the past seven decades.

In 1989, the school transferred its ownership of the landscape garden to the National Trust (but not the great mansion itself, as many have mistakenly assumed) and in doing so presented a unique gift to the nation. Members of the National Trust and all who appreciate architecture in the classical style are richer for such generosity.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. G. ATKINSON,
(Appeals Director),
Stowe School, Buckingham.

asked them. They were on the panel because of their interest in good beer.

Last year the winner of the best bottle-conditioned beer category was Worthington White Shield, brewed by Mr Bain's company. Perhaps his disappointment at not winning a prize this year has temporarily clouded his memory.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER PROTZ,
Editor, What's Brewing,
Campaign for Real Ale,
34 Alma Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
August 7.

Business letters, page 19

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

New Age travellers

From Mr Bernard Jones

Sir, Mrs Joan Bird (letter, August 12) is wrong to criticise police action against travellers in Hampshire. The sufferers are those owners of property who have to meet the cost of legal action and clear up after the travellers have moved on.

Recently one family in three caravans refused to move away from directly opposite our front gate. We lived in fear while the police and authorities were unable to help. During their stay considerable damage was done to our property. The noise of unsilenced generators, barking dogs and foul language was intolerable.

We were forced to cancel our holiday plans, being unable to leave the house unattended, and great distress was caused to my family. What had we done to deserve such an experience?

Yours sincerely,
B. L. JONES,
Oakwood House,
East Chiltonton,
Lewes, East Sussex,
August 13.

Plastic wallets

From Mr David Briggs

Sir, My daughter, like Mrs Wetherall's (letter, August 13), was also recently told that the DVLC are economising on plastic wallets. However, by the same post, my local police force saved her the trouble of asking for one.

When they re-issued my shotgun and firearm certificates, they not only sent two new pristine plastic wallets they also returned the old but perfectly serviceable wallets that the expiring certificates had been in.

Whoever suggested the police lack foresight?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRIGGS,
Blackwell Farm,
Lanmer, Buckinghamshire.

The last straw

From Mrs David Howard

Sir, Katy and Alice Bradbury (letter, August 12) may like to know that my children always refer to rectangular hay bales as "weatibix". Cylindrical ones are known as "spring rolls".

Yours faithfully,
HENRIETTA HOWARD,
Manor Cottage, Icomb,
Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

From Mr R. L. Reece

Sir, Our family refer to cylindrical hay bales as "bloops". They acquired this name during a Norfolk holiday some years ago, when, after a particularly "happy" lunch, much amusement was gained in watching the bales being driven across the fields, each of us attempting to predict the exact moment the machine would eject the next bale by announcing "bloop" at the appropriate moment.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. REECE,
16 Throlyway Close,
Pitsea, Essex.

From Mrs Monika Douglas-Hughes

Sir, When my three daughters were young, there always was great excitement when the "Swiss rolls" appeared in the fields around here.

Yours faithfully,
MONIKA DOUGLAS-HUGHES,
Foxearth House,
Foxearth, Sudbury, Suffolk.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

August 17: The Princess Royal this morning visited Kyle and Fortney and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Ross and Cromarty (Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairburn).

Her Royal Highness visited the BUTEC Base and opened the Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool in Kyle.

The Princess Royal afterwards opened the Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise Building in Portree.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Stormway and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the Western Isles (The Earl Granville).

The Princess Royal opened the Bethesda Nursing Home, and Hospice and afterwards visited Dun Eideann and the Alzheimer's Day Centre.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Fund's Shop, Kenneth Street.

Finally, Her Royal Highness visited Ardachell Hotel and Day Training Centre.

KENSINGTON PALACE August 17: The Princess of Wales this afternoon visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mr Robert Innes, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Turning Point, and of the 36th International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, attended a session of the Congress at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

Church news

The Rev William Stock, Team Rector, North Shields: to be also Rural Dean of Tyne-mouth.

The Rev David Thayer, Team Vicar, Lowestoft and Kirkby: to be Ecumenical Chaplain to St Helena Hospice, Colchester.

The Rev David Williams, Team Vicar, Throston, Cadbury, Upton Pyne, Bramford Spoke and Newton St Cyres: to be Team Rector, same benefices.

The Rev John Wilson, Vicar, Lakenham, St Mark: to be also Priest-in-charge, Trowse.

The Rev Barry Wood, Assistant Curate, St Paul with St Luke, Trammere: to be Team Vicar, Chester Team Parish.

The Rev Hugh Wright, Assistant Curate, St Martin, West Drayton: to be Priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Dr Elizabeth Varley, Adult Education Adviser (Durham): to be Social Responsibility Adviser (Newcastle).

Glenn Miller revival

The Glenn Miller Story will be shown on a 50K screen in stereo in an aircraft hanger as part of the USAAF anniversary celebrations at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday.

It will be the first time the museum has been open in the evening for such an event and cinemagoers are being encouraged to wear period clothes.

The band leader was killed in an air crash after playing for troops in Britain during the second world war.

Today's royal engagement

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will visit the Heriot-Watt Centre and Oil Terminal at Flotta, Orkney, at 11.00.

Focus on early telescope

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

A CRUDE telescope which would have allowed English commanders to spot Spanish galleons over a mile away while giving astronomers unrivalled glimpses of the moon and stars has been built at Imperial College London.

Colin Roman, who put together the device in collaboration with Gilbert Satterthwaite, based the design on a book of military and naval inventions, written by William Bourne, the mathematician, in 1578.

Mr Roman, who last year offered powerful evidence that a long forgotten English mathematician and inventor, Leonard Digges, should be credited with the invention of the telescope, said constructing the device offered further proof of Digges's claim.

The attempt to build the telescope followed Mr Roman's studies which he believes show that Digges invented an astronomical telescope in the 1550s, more than 30 years before rival Dutch claims of 1608. Mr Roman, vice-president of the British Astronomical Association, became intrigued by telescope after reading Bourne's book in the British Library.

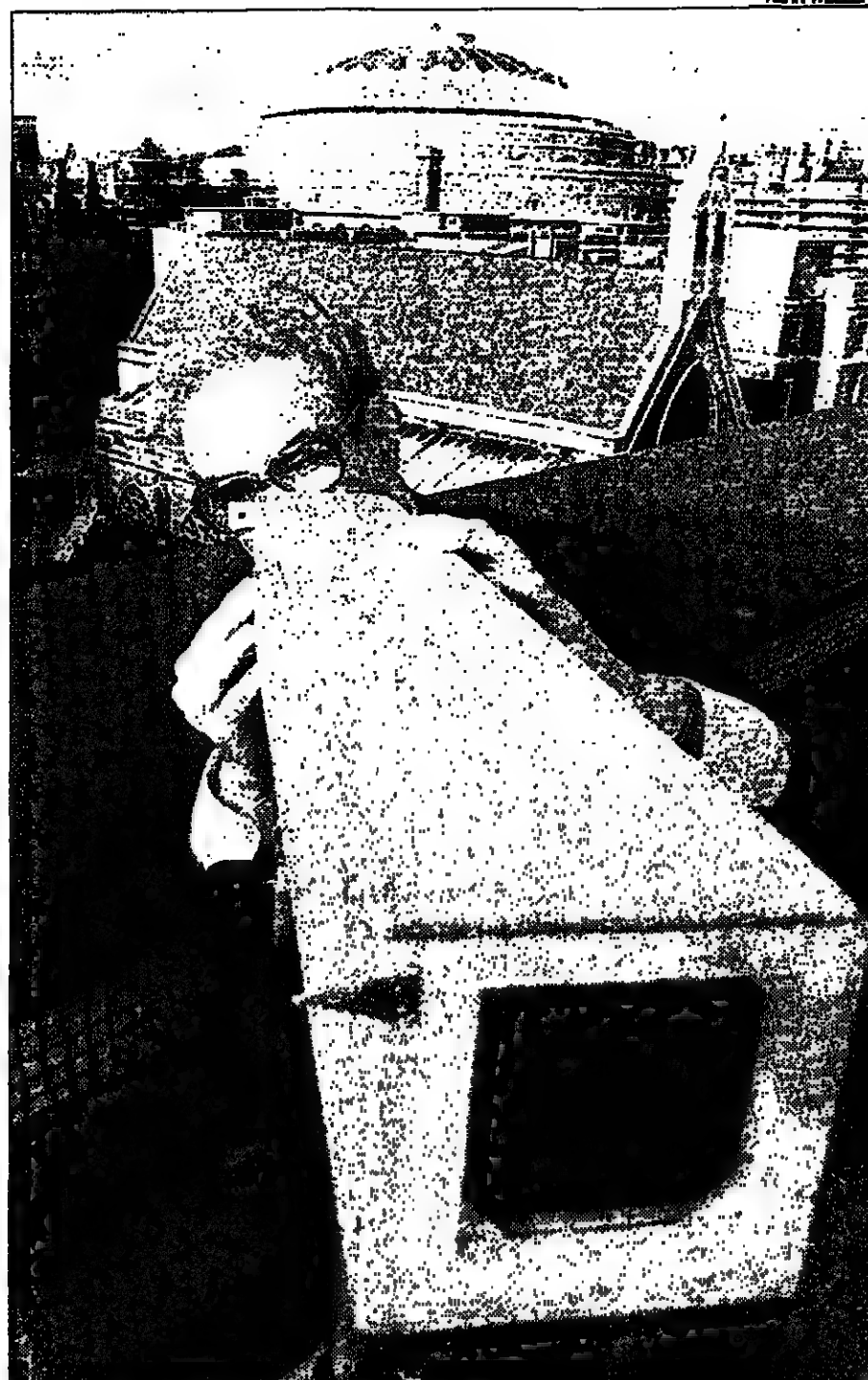
Bourne says: "For to see any small thing of great distance from you is requireth the aid of two glass and one glass must be made of purpose".

Said Mr Roman: "Now this is the principle of the telescope and it is the first, as far as I know, statement of the principle in print".

Building the reflecting telescope, which consists of a convex lens at the front and a curved mirror mounted at the back, has led to some surprising findings. Mr Roman discovered that when images are viewed from below or from the side they are inverted, which Mr Roman says, for military and naval purposes "would have been a bit of a devil".

What solved this difficulty was referring to work by Sir Isaac Newton of a century later. Newton designed a reflecting telescope which also gives an inverted image yet his drawings of a weathercock are portrayed upright.

The solution to seeing an upright image, and which is how the Elizabethan telescope has been built, requires a viewer to stand over the end looking backwards into the box.

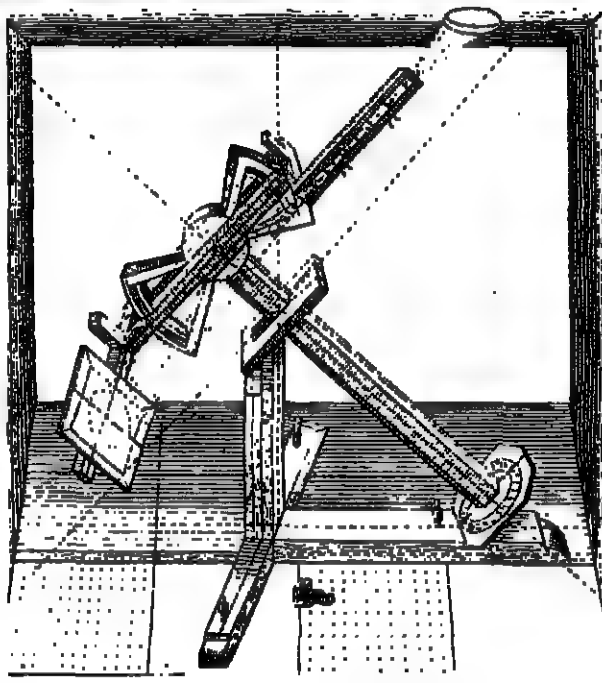


Colin Roman testing the replica Elizabethan telescope on the roof of Imperial College and, right, Galileo's later telescope

This version of the Digges telescope, which magnifies images 11 times, has a small field of view of about 0.4 of a degree but this would have "been very close to that of Galileo's", said Mr Roman.

However he stresses that the magnification would have "been damned useful at picking out a ship on the horizon and seeing if it was friend or foe".

He is convinced that not only did the Digges family build the reflecting telescope but also probably experimented with refracting telescopes of the kind which Dutch rivals sold in 1608 and which Galileo used in 1609.



Birthdays today

Professor R. M. Acheson, epidemiologist, 71; Mr Brian Aldiss, science fiction writer, 67; Sir Bryan Apper, chairman, Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, 62; Dame Josephine Barnes, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 80; Dr F.R. Bentley, dermatologist, 83; James Birrell, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 59; Mr Neil Duden-Smith, sports commentator, 59; Mr Godfrey Evans, cricketer, 72; Lord Grantham, QC, 71; Mr Robert Horne, former chairman, BP, 83; Dame Maura Lympany, concert pianist, 76; Sir John Mason, former director-general, Meteorological Office, 69; Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 64; Popsi, solicitor, 62; Sir David Pittblado, civil servant, 80; Mr Roman Polanski, film director, 59; Mr Justice Potts, 61; Mr Robert Redford, actor, 55; Mr Willie Rushman, author, cartoonist and broadcaster, 55; Mr Patrick Shovelton, civil aviation and shipping expert, 73; Mr P.A.C. Smith, chairman, Securicor, 72; Mr Casper Weinberger, former American Secretary of Defense, 75; Mr Charles Wilson, editorial director, Mirror Group Newspapers, 57; Professor J.S.G. Wilson, economist, 76; Miss Shelley Winters, actress, 70.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.M. Fitzsimmons and Miss S.A. Stiles. The engagement is announced. Mr and Mrs. between Tim Hong Kong, between Tim Fitzsimmons, of Lifford, Surrey, and Sharon Ann, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Oliver M. Stiles, of Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Dr C.C. Lees and Miss A.C. Bezzant. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs S.G. Lees of Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.K. Bezzant of Middle Friesham, Hampshire.

Mr B.A. Podmore and Miss C.L. Dobbs. The engagement is announced between Bruce Adam, youngest son of Mr Denis Podmore, and Mrs Keith Abel, of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Catherine Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan L. Dobbs, of Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

Marriages

Mr S. Landau and Mrs S. Lieberman. The marriage took place on Friday, August 15, 1992, at the New York home of Sidney Landau to Susan Lieberman.

Mr S.M. Priest and Mrs S.E. Heidemann. The marriage took place in The City Hall, New York, on July 27, between Stephen, son of Mrs Peggy Priest and the late Arthur Priest, MBE, and Silvia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anton Heidemann. The church ceremony will be held in Meppen, Germany, at Easter 1993.

Mr C.J. Whitman and Miss J.A. Roberts. The marriage took place on Sunday, August 9, at Kenwood, California, of Mr Christopher John Whitman, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Whitman, of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, to Miss Jordan Ann Roberts, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Roberts, of Kensington, California.

Icknield Way to reopen

Icknield Way, reputed to be the oldest road in Britain, will reopen next month as an historic footpath linking six counties. An official ceremony will be held at Baltham, Cambridgeshire, on September 11, the halfway point of a 278-mile network of tracks which link Averbury, Wiltshire, with Cromer in Norfolk.

The route links the Ridgeway, the Peddars and the North Norfolk Coast Path. It also marks the end of years of campaigning by ramblers and conservationists. The Icknield Way was once a trade route in Neolithic times (4000-2000 BC) between the Norfolk coast and southern England.

The county councils of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk have been working together with the Icknield Way Association, the British Horse Society and the Countryside Commission to make the opening possible. The route is being marked for long distance ramblers.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Brook Taylor, mathematician, Edmonton, Middlesex, 1685; Antonio Salieri, composer, Legnago, Italy, 1750; Meriwether Lewis, explorer, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1774; Fabian Bellinghansen, Polar explorer, Orel, Russia, 1779; John Russell, Earl Russell, Prime Minister 1846-52 and 1865-66; London, 1792; Franz Joseph I, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Vienna, 1830; Marcel Carné, film director, Paris, 1909; Alain Robbe-Grillet, writer and film director, Brest, 1922.

DEATHS: Genghis Khan, Mongol emperor 1175-1227, Mongolia, 1227; Guido Reni, painter, Bologna, 1642; James Beattie, poet, Aberdeen, 1803; Maubrey Boulton, engineer, London, 1809; André-Jacques Garnerin, aeronaut, Paris, 1823; Honoré de Balzac, novelist, Paris, 1850; Sir William Fairbairn, engineer, Moor Park, Surrey, 1874; William Henry Hudson, author and naturalist, London, 1922; Sir Frederick Ashton, ballet dancer and choreographer, 1988.

Latest wills

Kathleen Frances Harris, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,912,088 net. She left her entire estate to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Mr John Stanley Tomlinson, of London SW15, Secretary General of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics 1976-85, left estate valued at £590,041 net.

Barbers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Barbers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP; Upper Warden, Mr R.J. Pincham; Middle Warden, Mr R. Simmons; Renter Warden, Mr Alderman L.J. Chalmers; Deputy Master, Sir William Slack.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

For the Lord holds a cup in his hand and the wine flows out from it, richly spiced, he pours out this wine, and all the wicked on earth must drink to it.
Psalm 75:5

BIRTHS

AL-HAJRI - On August 14th, at the Humana Hospital, Wellington, to Maria and Hamid, a daughter, Zahra.

ANTONIOU - On July 21st, at Royal United Hospital, Bath, to Lucinda and Peter, a son, Oliver Nicholas.

ASHFIELD - On August 18th, to Carol and John, a beautiful daughter, Zoe.

BEST - On August 18th, to Kate and Tony, a daughter, Emily.

BRENNAN - On August 18th, to Jane and David, a son, Alexander James.

BUNTING - On August 14th, to Caroline and Robert, a daughter, Emily.

BUSCALL - On August 18th, to Kathryn and John, a son, James.

CADURY - On August 13th, to Michelle and Justin, a daughter, Emily.

COLLINS - On August 13th, to Emma and David, a son, David.

CORAN - On August 14th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Anne and John, a son, Jack.

CROALL - On August 13th, to Rebecca and Philip, a son, Joseph.

DINGEMANS - On August 10th, to Catherine and John, a daughter, Emily.

FERRAND - On August 13th, to Claire and John, a son, James.

GOACHER - On August 6th, to Catherine and John, a daughter, Emily.

GRIFITH - On August 13th, at the Portland Hospital, to Diane and Andrew, a son, William.

HAMILTON - On August 11th, to Julie and John, a son, James.

HERBERTSON - On August 14th, at Hinchinbrook Hospital, Huntingdon, to Joanne and John, a daughter, Emily.

HOVEY - On August 11th, to Philippa and John, a daughter, Emily.

ILLINGWORTH - On August 12th, to Emma and John, a daughter, Emily.

BIRTHS

LINFORD - On August 18th, to Margaret and Stephen, a son, Edward.

MACKENZIE - On August 12th, in Ballymena, County Antrim, to Elizabeth and David, a son, James.

MCCLELLAND - On August 13th, to David and Anne, a daughter, Emily.

MORSE - On August 18th, to Christine and John, a son, Augustus.

PAKEMAN - On August 18th, to Perry and Doreen, a son, Arthur.

PEARCE - On August 14th, to Patricia and John, a son, James.

POOLE - On August 14th, to John and Anne, a son, James.

ROBERTS - On August 16th, to Catherine and John, a daughter, Emily.

ROSE - On August 13th, to Emma and David, a son, David.

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OBITUARIES

ANTHONY McNULTY

Anthony Bernard McNulty, MBE, the first secretary of the European Commission for Human Rights, died on August 7 aged 81. He was born on May 25 1911.

TONY McNulty belonged to that post-war generation of concerned lawyers who turned human rights into a legal issue. As an adviser working for the Council of Europe in the 1950s, then as founding secretary of the European Commission for Human Rights from 1961, he helped to fashion, maintain and run the judicial machinery which, three decades later, is already taken for granted.

The alleged torture of internees in Northern Ireland brought before the Commission by the Dublin government in the 1970s was among the cases investigated and referred to the European Court of Human Rights under McNulty's stewardship. (In 1978 the Court cleared the British security forces of the torture allegations but found them guilty of "inhuman and degrading treatment").

Other issues were resolved out of court through "friendly settlements" — a system which he again pioneered in Strasbourg. Instinctively suspicious of government — any govern-

he was caught up in the second world war, serving with the 16th/5th Lancasters in North Africa.

He later joined the military staff and ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel, working as a legal adviser in Vienna where he was appointed a Military MBE. There he also developed his natural interest in human rights before this had become a fashionable cause. It was to dominate the rest of his career.

Following demobilisation, he remained on the Continent, engaged first on legal work resulting from the war before joining the Council of Europe as a counsellor and becoming deputy director of the European Convention of Human Rights in 1954.

Speaking and writing perfect French and German, he worked obsessively long hours throughout his time at Strasbourg, taking his holidays at his house in La Gaudie, near Nice, until retiring, aged 65, in 1976 and returning at last to this country.

Far from seeking out a quiet life, however, McNulty set about creating more organisations. First he founded (and largely financed) the British Institute of Human Rights, now based at King's College, London. Then five years ago, already in his mid-70s, he started the Aldo Trust (so called, he once cryptically explained, after a house) to help provide courses and books for people in prison.

At one time he was said to be paying up to £20,000 a year towards its upkeep and was processing up to 20 applications a day from prisoners in jail seeking help to rehabilitate themselves, which the prison authorities also wanted.

But McNulty's health, so robust all his life, began to break down 18 months ago and he was forced to quit the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) to take over the administration of the Trust.

Tony McNulty, who never married, was a deeply compassionate man and devout Anglican. He had a remarkably wide knowledge of the areas he became immersed in and a quiet manner, although this belied his strength of feeling. He loved good food, fine wines and above all the company of friends — many of whom were rich and influential. It was to the less well privileged, however, that he gave most of his time.



ment — he was ever a champion of the common man.

His own background, however, was far from common. The son of Canon Bernard McNulty, at one time the vicar of Tysoe, Warwickshire, he was clever enough to win a scholarship to Winchester where, lean and long-legged, he distinguished himself as a long distance runner.

From there he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, to read law and qualified as a barrister in 1939. Before he had time to practise, however,

AIR MARSHAL SIR EDWARD CHILTON

Air Marshal Sir (Charles) Edward Chilton, KBE, CB, a former commander-in-chief, RAF Coastal Command, died on August 4 aged 85. He was born on November 1, 1906.

"CHILTON" Chilton was shot down once during the war, not by the Germans but by an American anti-aircraft battery practising for D-Day. They mistook his Tiger Moth aircraft for a target plane. "Ten out of ten for marksmanship; zero for aircraft recognition," he wryly remarked after bailing out over the Bristol Channel.

He owed his survival to his impressive strength as a swimmer — and also perhaps to his specialist navigational training: his fellow crew member started swimming the wrong way until Chilton pointed him in the right direction.

The first RAF pilot to be catapulted from a carrier, "Chilton" went on to become a leading authority on maritime air power, and one of its most stalwart advocates. During the war he commanded the station at RAF Chivenor, leading sorties against U-boats in Britain's south-western approaches. Then later, as a senior air staff officer (SASO) at 19 Group headquarters in Plymouth, he ran similar operations in support of the Allies on D-Day.

Chilton's loyalty to Coastal Command was, if anything, still more notable during peacetime when he turned to fighting its battles in Whitehall. Time and again he had to repel the Royal Navy, who, particularly under Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, looked acquisitively at the RAF's maritime role.

He was himself born into a naval family at Portsmouth, where he was taught at Portsmouth Grammar School. From there he went to the RAF College at Cranwell, and was commissioned into the RAF in 1926.

The pattern of his service career was quickly evident. In



those days, pilots had to specialise in a secondary skill, and Chilton was sent on a navigation course. Despite his initial reluctance, he quickly developed an enthusiasm for it, and was later to become a fellow and vice-president of the Royal Institute of Navigation and a holder of the Portuguese Grand Cross of Prince Henry the Navigator.

Still more significantly, he was posted in 1927 to the elite flying boat development unit at Felixstowe, and two years later flew in the RAF team which won the Schneider Trophy for seaplanes.

In 1933, while serving as the

Central Flying School, he published his first article in the RAF Quarterly on the subject of air power at sea. The theme was to run through his subsequent career as he established himself, not only as an operational commander but as one of the RAF's chief theorists on maritime air power.

Among his later papers was one on Wing Commander J. C. Porte, a flying boat pioneer of the first world war, who was an early advocate of air cover for convoys. Chilton argued in later years that had Porte's ideas been adopted earlier, the Battle of the Atlantic could have been won much earlier than it was.

Chilton was posted to South-East Asia in 1944, went from there to be air officer commanding (AOC) in Ceylon in 1946, AOC Gibraltar in 1952, and assistant chief of the air staff (policy), 1953-54. In the late 1940s, he was also appointed to a joint service committee, established under the chairmanship of General Sir Gerald Templer, to examine the issue of maritime air defence.

He was SASO at Coastal Command headquarters in 1955, and AOC Malta (and deputy C-in-C Allied Forces Mediterranean), 1957-58. Then in 1959, he inherited the title to which he had always aspired, that of C-in-C Coastal Command — with associated NATO responsibilities in the eastern Atlantic, English Channel, and the North Sea. After three more years fighting the Royal Navy, he finally retired in 1962.

Chilton then began a second career as a consultant and director of IBM (Rentals), working largely on government contracts. He continued there until he was over 70, while he wrote and took part in defence seminars until last year.

He could be a demanding colleague who set high standards, and looked to others to do the same. Like many men who believed passionately in a cause, he sometimes ended up on the wrong side of an argument — advocating the use of flying boats, for example, long after their limitations had been exposed. He was also, however, a gifted speaker and raconteur.

His off-duty interests reflected his maritime inclinations. He was president of the RAF Rowing Club, vice-president of the RAF Swimming Association, and vice-admiral of the RAF Sailing Association. Sea fishing was among his passions.

"Chilly's" first wife, Bunry, died in 1963. He married again, in 1964, and is survived by his second wife, Joyce, and by a son from his first marriage.

COLSTON LEIGH

William Colston Leigh, a one-time failed opera singer and night watchman who became president of the world's leading speakers' agency, has died at his home in Tampa, Florida, aged 90. He was born in New York City on August 7, 1901.

THE famous authors represented by Colston Leigh on the lecture circuits of America, who included Arthur C. Clarke, James Michener and Art Buchwald, would have found it difficult to invent the career of their agent and make it sound credible. Leigh was a rarity: a man who found his métier by sheer accident and pursued it with phenomenal success.

He was the son of William Robinson Leigh, an artist of some note who specialised in painting pictures of the American West — though the family lived in Virginia. Young Colston had been a promising athlete in high school, but his ambitions lay elsewhere and he turned down a college baseball scholarship in Georgia to try his fortune in New York as an opera singer. The attempt was short-lived. Soon Leigh found himself working as a scrap sorter in a junkyard for 17 cents an hour, which was followed by jobs as a petrol station attendant, night watchman, telephone inspector, stenographer, and instructor in the art of the tango. He never made more than \$30 a week. And then, in the mid-1920s, Leigh met one of his father's Indian models, rejoicing in the name of Princess Chiquilla, who did a little public speaking on the side.

She suggested he should go and work for her lecture bureau in Manhattan. He did, and was promptly fired. But the experience was instructive. Next, while working as a carbon-paper salesman, Leigh started a part-time speakers' agency in his boarding house room, and in 1926 booked a man named Rupert Hughes to speak at Manhattan Town Hall.

Hughes's speciality was a speech debunking the hallowed image of George Washington, portraying the first president as a whisky drinker, gambler and rake, who once caught cold when fleeing half-naked from a mistress's boudoir.

"Well, why not?" cried an elderly woman in the audience. "Wasn't he the Father of his Country?" The resultant uproar made front page news, and suddenly both Hughes and his agent were in national demand.

Leigh quit his job as a salesman, and very soon the W. Colston Leigh Bureau was doing a roaring trade. By 1945, by dint of aggressive marketing, the flamboyant Leigh was commanding 80 per cent of the lecture business in the United States, and earning more than \$1 million a year in commissions. His clients included Eleanor Roosevelt, Clement Attlee, Edward R. Murrow, Jim Thorpe and, later, Indira Gandhi.

Leigh left the agency, now run by his son, in 1976. For the next ten years he and his second wife ran an antiques business in Princeton, New Jersey, before he finally retired at the age of 85.

RICHARD BLACK

Richard B. Black, Antarctic explorer and retired Rear-Admiral in the US Navy Reserve, died on August 11 aged 90. He was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

RICHARD Black had a talent for being on hand at historic moments. One such came in 1937 when, as a civil engineer working for the United States Interior Department, he was put in charge of preparing an air-strip on a remote Pacific island to serve as a staging point for Amelia Earhart on her attempt to fly round the world.

Howland Island, no more than a useless spit of sand, had been annexed by the US as a possible stopping-place on the air route between Hawaii and Australia.

On July 2, 1937, Ms Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, took off from Lae in British New Guinea for the 2,570 mile non-stop flight to Howland. Black and his men waited, shooting flocks of birds from the runway as her expected time of arrival approached. They waited in vain. With the

primitive navigation equipment of the day, Earhart and Noonan were unable to locate the tiny island, and Black monitored their final radio transmission, reporting that they had 30 minutes of fuel remaining. Neither aircraft nor crew was ever found.

Four years later Black had a second brush with history when he was called to active duty, and found himself stationed at Pearl Harbour during the Japanese attack of December 7, 1941. He subsequently fought in the battles for Tarawa and Saipan, winning the Bronze Star.

Richard Black was trained as a civil engineer at the University of North Dakota. From 1933 to 1935 he joined Rear-Admiral Richard Byrd in his second expedition to the Antarctic, for which he received the Navy's Special Silver Medal, and over the next 30 years served on four other Antarctic expeditions.

After the second world war, Black worked as a federal aeronautics official in Hawaii and was a civilian aide in South Korea during the Korean conflict.

CELIA GORE-BOOTH

Celia Gore-Booth, actress, died on August 7 aged 46. She was born on January 6, 1946.

THE death of Celia Gore-Booth removes from the theatre an original and innovative talent. She was a leading actress in a number of well-known experimental theatre companies, including Shared Experience and Theatre de Complicité. From the beginning of her career, she was involved with new and exciting work going on in theatre. She was passionately dedicated to exploring new forms and courageously inventive in her acting.

Gore-Booth developed a taste for acting in amateur productions in New Delhi, where her father, the late Lord Gore-Booth, was high commissioner from 1960 to 1965. Her father's interest in acting was evident in his playing Sherlock Holmes in a cliff-top struggle with Moriarty staged by the Sherlock Holmes Society.

Celia Gore-Booth trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and then with Jacques Lecoq in Paris, a leading exponent of physical theatre and mime. She joined Jerome Savary's Le Grand Magic Circus in 1971, and appeared in its productions of *Robinson Crusoe's Last Days* and *From Moses to Mao*. The Crusoe was seen at the Roundhouse, with a memorable performance by Gore-Booth singing rock songs.

She returned to Britain and was a co-founder in 1975 of Shared Experience,



working with its director, Mike Alfred, on a form of minimal theatre in which actors suggested, by sheer strength of acting, the scenery and sound effects. Those who saw their *Arabian Nights Trilogy* at the King's Head — the forerunner of successive productions that dramatised book narratives — will remember it as a landmark in

theatre for its freshness, intelligence and humour, and for Gore-Booth's striking appearance, with her waist-length auburn hair, in Arabian Nights veils.

From Shared Experience, she went on to Lumiere & Son and appeared in *Circus Lumiere*, directed by Hilary Westlake. Her work became ever more bold and inventive over the years. She was extraordinarily funny in the role of God in the Philippe Gaulier Company's *No Son of Mine*. She worked with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and put on a one-woman show, *The Food of Love*, at the Almeida. Some of her best work in the 1980s was with the Theatre de Complicité, the leading company of physical theatre. She worked with it on several productions, including *Anything for a Quiet Life*, which was also televised, and *Please Please Please*, in which she showed a talent, of which she was proud, of playing the musical saw. The characters that she invented displayed an inimitable comic skill combined with a sense of vulnerability. In *Complicité's* definitive version of Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, seen at the National Theatre last year, she played the pivotal moral role of the teacher. Her last stage role was as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in a Cambridge Theatre Company production last year of *Twelfth Night*. She appeared in a number of television plays and films, her most recent being in *Jeepers & Woosers*.

She married, in 1984, Douglas Gill, a drama therapist, and also leaves a son aged seven.

Eitan Berglas

EITAN Berglas, chairman of the board of one of Israel's largest banks and a former economics adviser to Israeli governments, died on August 8 aged 58.

As a member of the board of Bank Hapoalim, Berglas helped bail out key Israeli

John Anderson

JOHN Anderson, an American character actor who was a sniping used-car salesman in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* died on August 7 aged 69.

Having earned a masters degree in drama he appeared in several Broadway productions but was best known in

America for his work in television, having appeared in more than 500 small-screen roles, including frequent 1960s appearances in *The Twilight Zone*.

In addition to *Psycho*, he appeared in such films as *Smiley and the Bandit II*, *Ride the High Country* and *Cotton Comes to Harlem*.

Archaeology

Danish optimism at 'wedding cake' tomb of Mausolos

From CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT, COPENHAGEN

DANISH archaeologists are digging at the site of the tomb of Mausolos in ancient Halicarnassus — one of the seven wonders of the ancient world located in today's Bodrum in southwest Turkey — 135 years after Sir Charles Newton began the first systematic excavations there.

Newton worked at Halicarnassus for 18 months between 1856 and 1858, removing statues and mosaics, and shipping them to the British Museum, of which he later became director. Since Newton's day, the most important modern excavations at the site have been conducted by Danes: a Danish team worked there in 1966 and 1977 led by Professor

Kristian Jeppesen, their excavations leading to the assembling of the first accurate model of the greatest tomb in antiquity. After an interlude of 13 years, a new Danish expedition, organised by Odense University, is again excavating the site in annual summer digs.

One of the mightiest achievements of Greek art and surely the finest funeral monument of the Hellenic world, the tomb of Mausolos, in wedding cake style and 200ft high, was completed around 350BC by Artemisia, wife of Mausolos, Persian governor of Caria in Asia Minor. Artemisia finished the monument after the death of her husband and was later buried in it along with him.

The latest Danish campaign, started in 1990 and in its third season this summer, is concentrated

on an ancient residential area to the west of the tomb ruins. "We are quite literally digging in the footsteps of Newton," said Professor Paul Pedersen, one of the leaders of the Danish Halicarnassus Expedition, "which is being carried out in co-operation with the Bodrum Museum."

"Some of the walls in the western part of the excavation site constitute a very important discovery. We can see that they were previously unearthed by Newton and that they form part of a large villa complex excavated by the British in the middle of the last century."

"We can combine Newton's original maps with our own and produce the complete plan of a very large Roman villa more than 1,000 square metres in area."

"Many of the large mosaic floors

discovered by Newton at the villa were taken up and are now in the British Museum," Professor Pedersen says. "Unfortunately those we have now found are not so well preserved, but we are confident that more mosaics in better condition will be found at the Bodrum site."

The Roman villa, part of an extensive residential district, is dated to around 500 AD and believed to have been the home of a wealthy merchant. The mosaics are partly ornamental but some of them show deer running in stylized forest scenes illustrating the theme of the four seasons.

Pottery and terracotta fragments unearthed at bedrock-level indicate that the villa is built on the remains of an earlier late classical building dating from the original fourth century BC city built by Mausolos. The

Danes have also uncovered entrances to a tunnel system in the area mentioned by Newton.

At a site near by, the Danes last year excavated a house predating the Roman villa by six centuries with good quality mosaics of a simple geometric composition and comparable to those found in Hellenistic buildings on the Greek island of Delos. Fragments of 2,000-year-old wall decoration were found along with terracotta figurines and a bust of Apollo.

The Danish excavations are giving archaeologists a fascinating glimpse of town planning in the ancient world; the geometric regularity of the street plan of Halicarnassus with thoroughfares crossing each other at right angles and houses in blocks being reminiscent of Manhattan's modern grid system.

August 18 ON THIS DAY 1786



In addressing the prime minister, William Pitt the Younger, the correspondent deplores the system of tithes which paid for the upkeep of the Established Church of Ireland — paid by a mainly Catholic population.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MR. PITT

SIR,

If we take a retrospect of the various tumults which have been raised by the successive banditti in Ireland, we find, that the pretext under which they acted their disorderly proceedings, hath been one, the oppression of the tythe proctors.

Most, if not all of those unhappy creatures, are of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and have numerous priests of their own sect to support, the withholding of whose dues (as they call them) would be deemed sacrilege.

Their Clergy have no legal provision for their support, and consequently depend on the voluntary, or it may be imposed contribution of the people, and mostly exact their stipend with even as rigorous a hand as they very tythe proctors themselves, for they withhold from them the administration of their religious rites, should they prove remiss in rendering the stipulated rates to the priest, so that those poor people have two orders of priesthood to maintain, the one of whom are aliens to their Irish, and at the same time such is their poverty, that so small a tribute as the hearth tax (though but two shillings) is a real burden to many of them.

I have beheld with my own eyes, the hearth money Collector come out of one of their cottages, and his servant following him, carrying the pot, wheel, and blankets, in which their little furniture chiefly consisted, in order to

sell by cant for the hearth money, whilst the miserable housewife, with three or four naked children have ran after him, crying and wringing her hands.

The denomination of poor who are subject to this misfortune, I mean that of having their little furniture seized through inability to pay the hearth tax, are still more wretched than any of those whom I have been speaking of, they are called by the Irish, colliers; their situation is this; a farmer in that country appropriates a piece of the worst part of his ground, to the purpose of fixing his labourers on it, here they erect their little colony, on a barren sterile soil, either mountainous or marshy, and frequently on the healthy bog; each man has his acre allotted him for a potato garden, for which he is charged forty shillings per annum; on this acre he erects his cabin, and if he has a cow, he pays thirty shillings yearly for her running on the common, or some ordinary pasturage in the farm; this creature's constant employ is working for the farmer, for which he receives 6d. by the day, for one half year's work, finding himself virtually wholly; this wages is appropriated to the purpose of, 1st, Paying his rent and grazing of his cow, which the employer detains in his hands; 2dly, Purchasing meadow for the cow, and, 3dly, Subsisting and cloathing the family; now, allowing that he works 300 days in the year, which is as much as we can allow, his income amounts to 6l. 5s. of which 5l. 10s. goes to the master, and 1l. 5s. at least for hay; the sum remaining is but 1l. 10s. to purchase every other matter which a family of four or half-a-dozen persons may have occasion for throughout the year, exclusive of potatoes and milk, which you may see by this just statement, must compose all, or the most of the annual nutriment, as it frequently costs them the remaining thirty shillings for seed potatoes.

PHILO-BRITANNIA

Legal storm over white woman afraid of blacks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AN appeals court in Atlanta is to decide whether a ruling that an attack on a white woman by a black man rendered her incapable of working with "large, black males" violates the Constitution's prohibition against racial discrimination.

The case of Ruth Jandrucko, then 65, who was mugged by a black man in a Miami parking lot in 1986, has prompted a furious legal debate. Her purse was stolen and her back was fractured. Mrs Jandrucko claims she now suffers from "post traumatic stress disorder", and panics at the sight of any large black man.

Mrs Jandrucko was working for Colorcraft, a photo-processing company, and the attack took place while she was visiting one of the company's Miami clients. She claims that since the incident she has been unable to work.

Rents fall in home sale slump

Continued from page 1

places. "There are isolated areas where it is very hard for people to obtain what they want. For example, it is often difficult to find flats in country towns."

Lack of supply has combined with greater demand in the North than the South. "In the recession, people have moved from South to North. This recession is very much based in the South East."

The bottom end of the market across the country has been the most active sector. "We've seen a big increase in the number of people who are unemployed and on housing benefit and who are renting," Mr Lee said. "There are not just people in arrears with their mortgages, but people in arrears with their rents."

The survey covered about a quarter of private rentals in Britain.

Tony Travers, page 10

A federal judge in Miami denied the company's request for permanent injunctive relief, which would have freed Colorcraft from paying compensation. The company has lodged an appeal.

A compensation claims judge in Florida ruled that Mrs Jandrucko's phobia renders her incapable of working with "large, black males" in a racially-mixed environment. She was awarded full disability and \$50,000 (£25,000) in worker's compensation over four years, a decision that has unleashed charges of judicial racism.

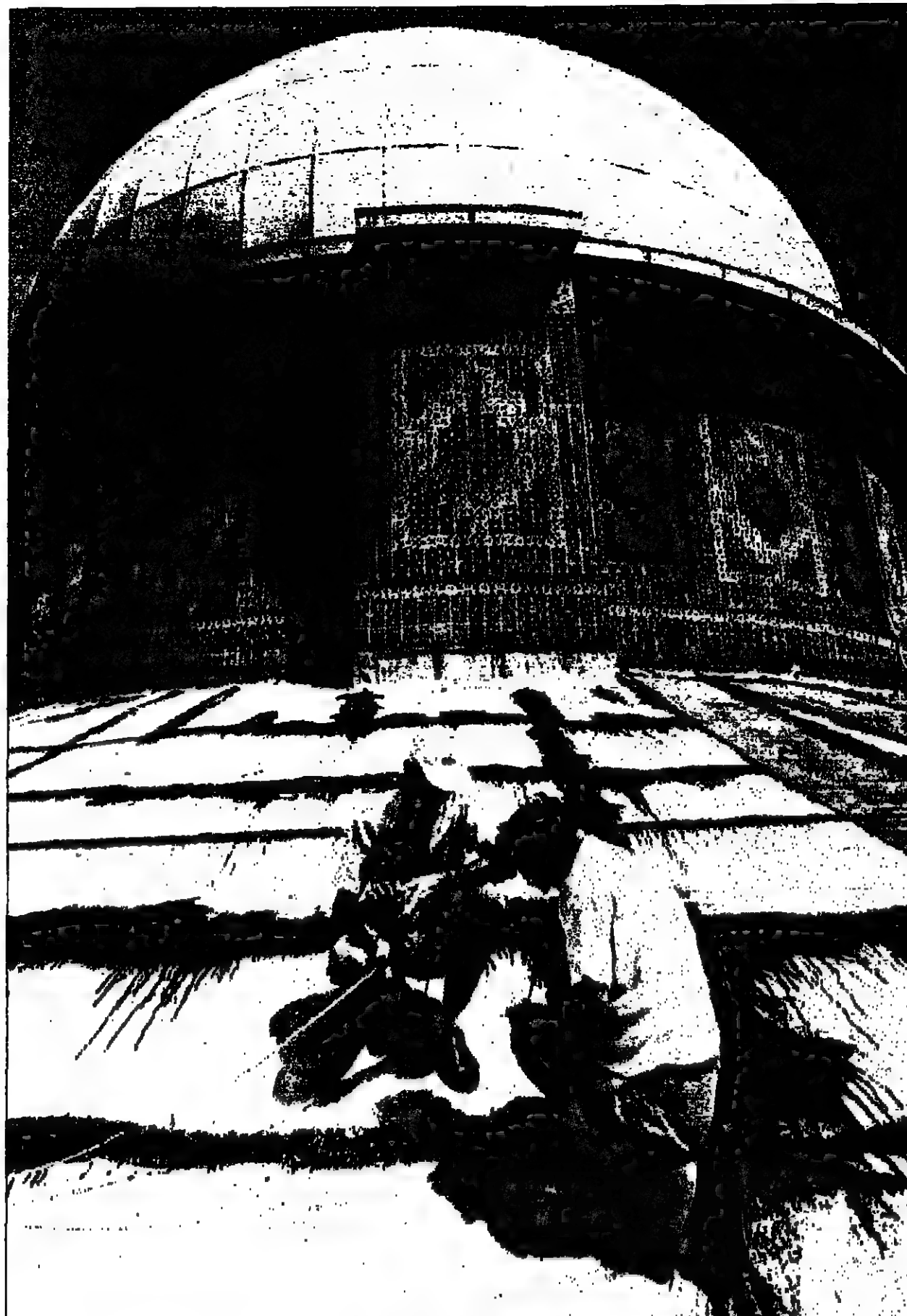
The case, which is destined to be heard by an appeal court in Atlanta in November, pits two long-established American employment policies against each other — the right of workers to injury compensation and a company's responsibility to provide a racially-integrated workplace.

Mrs Jandrucko's lawyer argues that the case is not racially-motivated and that before the attack she was completely comfortable working with black people. Her lawyer said she was "a sweet little old lady. To know Ruthie is to love her."

The Florida court heard that since the mugging Mrs Jandrucko, now 71, had become "hyper-vigilant and extremely nervous in any situation where she might encounter black persons, especially young black males such as the person who attacked her." She testified that seeing black men in shops, and even on television, caused her to have panic attacks.

Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union say that the ruling may open the way for thousands of similar claims, and leaders of America's black community argue the case has helped to reinforce the racist stereotype that all young blacks are prone to violent crime.

"If we are to award Ruth Jandrucko money," said a lawyer for her former employers, "then every Ku Klux Klan member should be awarded money because they, too, have an irrational fear of black people."



Measure for measure: Arthur Harrison and Bernard Lockwood of the 7th century Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem in preparation for a £4 million restoration programme. They are part of a six-man team from the Antrim-based Mivan Overseas company, which has been involved in a number of mosque restoration projects since working in Iraq in 1981. The

Jerusalem project is being financed by King Hussein of Jordan, who has reportedly raised some of the money by selling a home in England. The project's director, Patrick O'Hare, says that work will take 18 months. Most of that will be spent designing and manufacturing metal plates to cover the dome. These plates will be brass covered by a layer of nickel and a patina of 24 karat gold, valued at some £750,000, and

replacing the gold-coloured aluminium that has been on the dome since the early 1960s. The project was undertaken not only to beautify the shrine — which is a symbol of Jerusalem and one of Islam's holiest sites — but because the dome was leaking. It covers a large rock that Muslims believe was the platform for the prophet Mohammed's journey to heaven and is the third holiest site in Islam.

UN fears 200,000 may join exodus

Continued from page 1

Mendiluce also predicted that unless the Bosnian war was brought to a rapid end "winter could kill more people than the war".

In northern Bosnia, there were signs that local Serb leaders were hardening their positions. Simo Drijaca, police chief of Prijedor under whose jurisdiction thousands of Muslims have been interned, hoping that the UN will soon evacuate them, said: "There's no more messing around now. We're digging in and we are going to drive out all those who do not respect the laws of the [Bosnian Serb] republic."

He accused the West of consciously using Bosnian Serbs as a shield against an Islamic threat. "They gave a state to a people who are not a people. They knew that the Serbs would never agree to this and would stop it by force if necessary — see what whores they are."

Senior Mendiluce said that despite the UNHCR's efforts to resist Serb attempts to push non-Serbs out of northern Bosnia, 260 people had arrived in a part of Croatia under UN protection over the weekend.

"We told the Serbs that we are not a travel agency for them to implement the expulsion of the Muslims, but people are being persecuted and they are already beginning to move. We will do whatever we can to protect them," he said. Across northern Bosnia tens of thousands of Muslims are already waiting to leave.

Asked about the recent UN Security Council resolution authorising the use of force to protect humanitarian convoys, Senior Mendiluce said: "What can an F-16 do when we need to clear mines on a bridge? Everyone is frightened about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the leading humanitarian organisation has 45 trucks. Let's get serious." He said the UNHCR desperately needed more trucks and logistical back up.

In Belgrade, Vladislav Jovanovic, Yugoslavia's foreign minister, warned the West yesterday that the deployment of troops in Bosnia to support rebel convoys could have bloody consequences.

White flags fly, page 9
Comor Cruise O'Brien, page 10
Letters, page 11

Robert the Bruce loses image war

By KERRY GILL

Robert the Bruce, the symbol of Scottish freedom for almost 700 years, is about to fight his last battle and all the omens point to his ultimate defeat.

It is not the perfidious English who are threatening his position but his parsimonious descendants not two miles down the road from the scene of his momentous victory when Bruce routed the "aid ennemy" forces under Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn.

Stirling District Council, which uses Robert the Bruce as its official emblem, has decided that the image of the old warrior king is no longer suitable for a forward look-



STIRLING DISTRICT COUNCIL

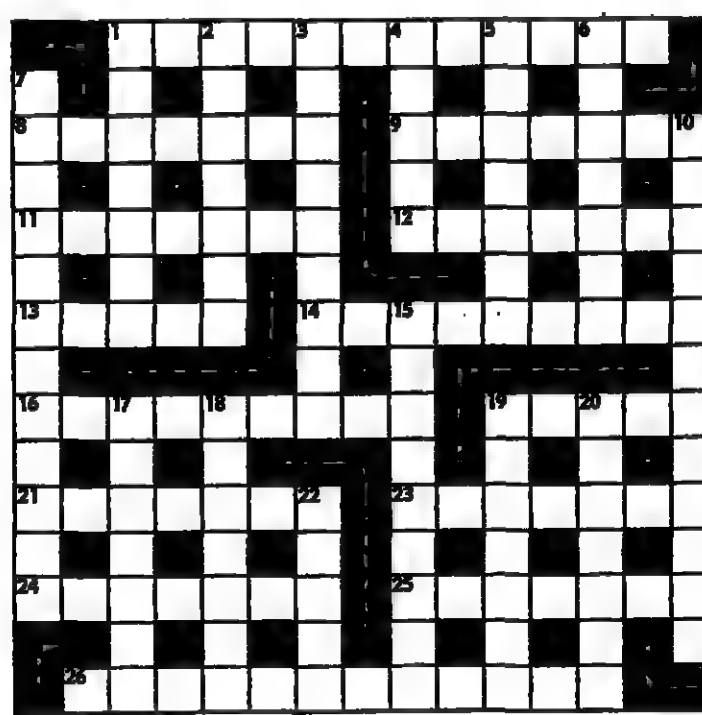
ing and "consumer friendly" local authority. The town's visitors, the councillors must have considered, were more often than not English.

But it emerged last night that costs as much as an image has contributed to the pending demise of Robert the Bruce. The Conservative-controlled council is forced to spend between £400 and £1,000 extra every time it paints the Bruce emblem on the side of its vehicles.

Kelth Harding, council leader, said the existing logo was oddly designed. He added: "It has now become largely impractical and no longer conveys the values of the council. A knight on horseback does not give the impression of a fast, open and accessible council that cares about its customers."

Stirling council plans to phase in its new corporate identity, which is to be drawn up by consultants over the next few months. No details have been given about the new logo but council insiders disclose that it may include a crest containing the cross of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint.

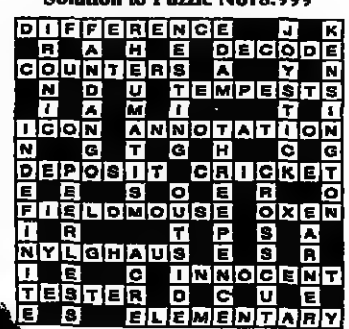
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,000



ACROSS

- Keep some wood behind this place — officially (3,3,6)
- Little by little, not extremely profound (7)
- Come to grips with Greek fruit (7)
- Plainsmen, so to speak, boasted on the radio (7)
- Survey town — agree with it being developed (7)
- Just wanting a second hint (5)
- Jack, a man wearing waterproof hat (7)
- Adverse winds leading operator to listen in (9)
- Often Etonians hold this opinion (5)
- Dark blue, neat, being worn by Scotsman (7)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,999



- Senior Officer let down soldiers — they expect reliable leaders (7)
- A framework made of wooden strips — 18, possibly (7)
- Trouble gets Englishman in a flap (7)
- Dirty fuel, they say, is a cause of trouble (6,6)

DOWN

- Insectivore flourished — person's upset (3-4)
- About to ruin one line, acquire new lines (7)
- Well may bear examination (4-5)
- Man who's received everywhere (5)
- Nazi car crashed by empress (7)
- Painter beginning to paint girl — rising artist (7)
- Lines missing, following... (8,4)
- ...hereafter, call for a love-token (8,4)
- Wrongdoer trained to be a porter (9)
- Savage born in the purple (7)
- Southern ploughman is less rufed (7)
- Tuppence once accepted by door-keeper for little fish (7)
- Not a false note? (7)
- Mean to put up an animal shelter (5)

Concise Crossword, page 7
Life & Times section

WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- UPANISHAD**
a. A leader, overcoat
b. A mystical treatise
c. A mountain watershed
- GRIMPEN**
a. A snowing sky
b. A slippery part of a mountain
c. To frown
- AXILLA**
a. Armpit hair
b. A small flag
c. A serving-tray
- MUNDUNGUB**
a. A stretch of tobacco
b. A midden
c. A type of one-armed head

Answers on page 12

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon, Dorset & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex	706
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire & Humberside	712
Derbyshire & Leicestershire	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
North East	715
North West	716
W & S Yorks & Wales	717
N & E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
W & S Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edinburgh, Fife, Orkney & Shetland	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N & W Scotland	725
N Ireland	726

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rates) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code

C London (within N & S Circle)	731
M-ways/roads M1-M4	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads M23-M4	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rates) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

North-west Scotland will start cloudy with rain, heavy at times and spreading to Northern Ireland and most of the rest of Scotland by the end of the day. South-west England will start cloudy with some rain, spreading to most of Wales and the western half of England by midnight. Eastern England will start bright, but there may be patchy rain later. Windy in far north-west. Outlook: rain for a time in most places tomorrow before brighter spells. Some sunshine on Thursday, but also thundery showers in south-east.

MIDDAY: temperature, direction, speed, rain

Area	Temp	Wind	Rain
Abertawe	17	W 10	0
Anglesey	17	W 10	0
Aberdeen	17	W 10	0
Belfast	17	W 10	0
Birmingham	17	W 10	0
Bristol	17	W 10	0
Buckingham	17	W 10	0
Cardiff	17	W 10	0
Chesham	17	W 10	0
Cirencester	17	W 10	0
Cornwall	17	W 10	0
Cotswolds	17	W 10	0
Croydon	17	W 10	0
Dorset	17	W 10	0
Durham	17	W 10	0
Edinburgh	17	W 10	0
Exeter	17	W 10	0
Farnham	17	W 10	0
Gloucester	17	W 10	0
Hereford	17	W 10	0
Leamington	17	W 10	0
Leicester	17	W 10	0
Leeds	17	W 10	0
Liverpool	17	W 10	0
Luton	17	W 10	0
Manchester	17	W 10	0
Marblehead	17	W 10	0
Middlesbrough	17	W 10	0
Nottingham	17	W 10	0
Oldham	17	W 10	0
Perth	17	W 10	0
Peterborough	17	W 10	0
Reading	17	W 10	0
Sheffield	17	W 10	0
Southampton	17	W 10	0
Stirling	17	W 10	0
Stroud	17	W 10	0
Sunderland	17	W 10	0
Torquay	17	W 10	0
Warrington	17	W 10	0
Widnes	17	W 10	0
Worcester	17	W 10	0
Wrexham	17	W 10	0
York	17	W 10	0

denotes figures are latest available

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8pm, 17C (63F); min 8pm to 6am, 9C (48F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.22in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 7.1hr

FOURSTAR

Bank	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.25
Denmark	1.10
France	1.00
Germany	1.00
Italy	1.00
Japan	1.00
Netherlands	1.00
Portugal	1.00
Spain	1.00
Sweden	1.00
Switzerland	1.00
Turkey	1.00
USA	1.00
Yugoslavia	1.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

WEATHER

North-west Scotland will start cloudy with rain, heavy at times and spreading to Northern Ireland and most of the rest of Scotland by the end of the day. South-west England will start cloudy with some rain, spreading to most of Wales and the western half of England by midnight. Eastern England will start bright, but there may be patchy rain later. Windy in far north-west. Outlook: rain for a time in most places tomorrow before brighter spells. Some sunshine on Thursday, but also thundery showers in south-east.

MIDDAY: temperature, direction, speed, rain

Area	Temp	Wind	Rain
Abertawe	17	W 10	0
Anglesey	17	W 10	0
Aberdeen	17	W 10	0
Belfast	17	W 10	0
Birmingham	17	W 10	0
Bristol	17	W 10	0
Buckingham	17	W 10	0
Cardiff	17	W 10	0
Chesham	17	W 10	0
Cirencester	17	W 10	0
Cornwall	17	W 10	0
Cotswolds	17	W 10	0
Croydon	17	W 10	0
Dorset	17	W 10	0
Durham	17	W 10	0
Edinburgh	17	W 10	0
Exeter	17	W 10	0
Farnham	17	W 10	0
Gloucester	17	W 10	0
Hereford	17	W 10	0
Leamington	17	W 10	0
Leicester	17	W 10	0
Leeds	17	W 10	0
Liverpool	17	W 10	0
Luton	17	W 10	0
Manchester	17	W 10	0
Marblehead	17	W 10	0
Middlesbrough	17	W 10	0
Nottingham	17	W 10	0
Oldham	17	W 10	0
Perth	17	W 10	0
Peterborough	17	W 10	0
Reading	17	W 10	0
Sheffield	17	W 10	0
Southampton	17	W 10	0
Stirling	17	W 10	0
Stroud	17	W 10	0
Sunderland	17	W 10	0
Torquay	17	W 10	0
Warrington	17	W 10	0
Widnes	17	W 10	0
Worcester	17	W 10	0
Wrexham	17	W 10	0
York	17	W 10	0

denotes figures are latest available

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 8pm, 17C (63F); min 8pm to 6am, 9C (48F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.22in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 7.1hr

FOURSTAR


Bank	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.25
Denmark	1.10
France	1.00
Germany	1.00
Italy	1.00
Japan	1.00
Netherlands	1.00
Portugal	1.00
Spain	1.00
Sweden	1.00
Switzerland	1.00
Turkey	1.00
USA	1.00
Yugoslavia	1.00

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MIDDAY: temperature, direction, speed, rain



Sunday: Highest day temp: Marham
 Norfolk, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Cape
 Wrath (northern Scotland), 14C (57F);
 highest rainfall: Baco Norton, Ceredigion
 (Wales), 0.67m; highest sunshine: Treme
 (Ireland), 10.5hr.

Lower Bridge will be lifted at the following times
 today: 5.00pm, 6pm, 10pm and 11pm.

TODAY:	AM	HT	PM	HT
Abertawe	5.27	8.8	5.23	6.8
Aberdeen	4.32	7.1	5.09	3.8
Anglesey	10.42	12.2	10.25	-12.1
Birmingham	2.13	3.4	2.28	3.3
Belfast	10.27	11.8	10.44	11.1
Cardiff	9.10	4.9	6.17	5.0
Chesham	5.09	7.8	2.28	6.4
Cirencester	8.40	4.7	4.47	4.8
Cornwall	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Cotswolds	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Croydon	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Dorset	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Durham	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Edinburgh	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Exeter	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Farnham	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Gloucester	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Hereford	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Leamington	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Leicester	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Leeds	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Liverpool	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Luton	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Manchester	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Marblehead	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Middlesbrough	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Milton Keynes	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Nottingham	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Oldham	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Reading	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Sheffield	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Slough	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Southampton	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Stoke-on-Trent	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Sunderland	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Torquay	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Walsley	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Warrington	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Widnes	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
Wigan	4.32	3.9	3.28	3.3
Wimborne	1.28	5.4	1.58	5.0
Worcester	6.47	7.2	10.11	7.1
Wrexham	2.09	9.5	4.49	8.4
Wynne	4.17	4.8	4.35	4.8
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Wynne	2.0			

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BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 18 1992

SPORT
23-26

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Argos and Co-op take optimistic line

City shrugs off gloom of retail trades survey

By GEORGE STIVELL and JONATHAN PRYNN

THE City shrugged off the gloomy CBI distributive trades survey yesterday. In the absence of further big swings on the foreign exchange markets, trading continued in the optimistic vein of Friday, when good inflation news from Britain and Germany lifted shares. Buyers, although selective, were encouraged by two bright spots on the high streets, Argos and the Co-op, and the FT-SE 100 index closed 19.3 up at 2,376.1.

The mood will be tested later today when the Bank of England publishes its latest quarterly assessment of the British economy and the government reveals its latest borrowing figures. Economists are increasingly concerned at the rising public borrowing requirement, forecast to be up to £2 billion for July.

Tomorrow sees economic growth figures for the second quarter of the year. The range

of forecasts is wide, with some economists expecting a quarter on quarter fall of 0.5 per cent. This prediction, if confirmed, would set the seal on the eighth successive quarter of recession. Other economists expect a rise in economic activity of 0.4 per cent, which would be read as the official end of the recession.

Shares in Argos, the catalogue retail group, surged 15p to 219p, a rise of more than 7 per cent, on better than expected interim figures and encouraging sales figures in July and August.

Pre-tax profits for the 24 weeks to June 13 were £9.5 million, down 11 per cent, on turnover up 3 per cent at £331.8 million. However, the profit figure included more than £2 million of start-up losses from Chesterman Home Furnishers, the up-market furniture chain, which has failed to reach its sales targets for its first two months.

The interim dividend is up 5 per cent at 2.2p. Underlying store-for-store sales fell 0.9 per cent, a slower rate of decline than last year. In the first six weeks of the second half, the trend was reversed and stores sales were marginally up. Analysts said this was encouraging for the rest of the year as Argos had enjoyed a good summer last year. David Donno, the chairman, said: "While this does not necessarily signal an end to the recession, it does give some encouragement that the low point in consumer spending may have been reached."

The report adds that this year may see the beginnings of a modest recovery, with consumer spending increasing by about 1 per cent overall, which would be enough to make good the ground lost last year. Higher real incomes and a slight reduction in savings could then combine to produce more rapid growth of about 2.5% in 1993, it says. But it warns: "Any recovery is likely to be hampered by the fact that the current situation appears much less favourable than that existing at the end of the early 1980s recession."

Tomorrow the City will be looking closely at the government's official retail sales figures for July, a month which, the CBI said yesterday, saw the steepest year-on-year fall since the distributive trades survey began in 1983.

The market is looking for anything between a year-on-year fall of 0.6 per cent to a rise of 0.3 per cent reflecting a monthly change of anything between minus 0.5 per cent to plus 0.3 per cent.

Argos, *Temps*, page 18



Taking an overview: the panel, now headed by Frances Heaton, is rethinking its policy on stake-builders

Panel casts an eye on 'creeping' takeovers

By JON ASHWORTH

THE takeover panel is considering whether to clamp down on companies that use "creeping" acquisitions to win control of others without making a full bid.

Merchant banks, accountancy firms and other City bodies involved in the takeover process are being asked for their views amid fears that the system is open to abuse. A company that holds 30 to 50 per cent of another can quite legitimately increase its shareholding by 2 per cent a year.

The panel, under Frances Heaton, its director-general, is concerned that persistent corporate raiders could increase their stake over a period of years, ultimately gaining control. The so-called "creeping provision" was introduced into the takeover code in 1974 to allow some flexibility. Normally, companies that take a stake in another to more than 30 per cent are obliged to make an offer.

A panel spokesman said that the area of creeping acquisitions was one of a several open to possible revision but it was too early to say whether any changes would follow. He said the revision had not been prompted by any one case or body of cases. Any changes to the rules are likely to come as part of a general desire to update the panel's rules, should this prove necessary.

The creeping provision has worked well enough in the past 20 years but there is always the possibility that someone might seek to abuse it by patiently increasing their stake. They could do this by paying a premium for the shares which, in the panel's view, should be shared with other shareholders. At the outside, for a 30 per cent shareholder, the process of winning control could be completed in ten years.

Among companies affected by the possible changes would be those that have been left holding large stakes after a failed bid attempt.

Comment, page 19

Accountancy book thrives on furore

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TERRY Smith's *success as a scandal*, which claims to take the lid off creative accounting techniques, arrived in City bookshops yesterday, a month ahead of schedule and bearing the eye-catching subtitle *The Book They Tried to Ban*.

Accounting for Growth, which led to Mr Smith's suspension as head of research at UBS Phillips & Drew last week amid suggestions that it had upset several big banking clients of the Swiss-owned securities house, is subtitled *Stripping the Camouflage from Company Accounts*.

Random House, the publisher, rushed ahead publication of 10,000 copies in paperback after the furore over Mr Smith's suspension and to take advantage of the extensive publicity.

One chain of bookshops, Books Etc, rushed a van to the printer in Chatham, Kent, to take 2,000 early copies to its nine London shops. The two in the City, in Fenchurch Street and in the Broadgate Circle, close to UBS Phillips & Drew's London headquarters, were selling the book by lunchtime yesterday.

Richard Joseph, managing

director of the chain and an accountant by profession, said interest in the book had been stimulated by press publicity and recent collapses of apparently healthy companies. "I think the public want to know what methods they use. I knew they went on, but even I'm surprised at the extent of it."

Liz Sich, publicity director for Random House, said the rest of the first run would be arriving in other bookshops by today, and a second print run was being prepared.

"We're absolutely delighted by the response of the book trade. They [UBS Phillips & Drew] have done the job for us in publicising it."

The Swiss securities house issued a writ against Random House and Mr Smith last week alleging infringement of copyright and breach of contract but does not appear to have applied for the interlocutory injunction that could have prevented publication.

The book deals with various techniques used to inflate profits, names the companies using them and contains analyses of three corporate collapses, Coloroll, British & Commonwealth and Polly Peck.

Fimbra suspends members

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

TWO members of the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) were suspended yesterday and ordered to cease trading for failing to have professional indemnity cover. This follows a similar suspension and order to cease trading on Friday.

All three were stopped from trading under a rule 7 direction. This can suspend investment business in total, or restrict what type of business can be done and by whom.

Fimbra members have been obliged to have professional indemnity cover since April last year. The firms suspended yesterday were Newchurch and Company, of London, and Parr, Waller and Spain Insurance Services, of Tyne & Wear. On Friday, Business Sales Insurance Services, of Regent Street, London, was suspended and ordered to cease business because it failed to maintain professional indemnity insurance.

As members renew their membership of Fimbra, the regulator is checking that they have indemnity cover. It expects other suspensions.

Gulf buoys oil price as dollar see-saws

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

JITTERS over the possibility of new hostilities between America and Iraq buoyed world oil prices yesterday, even though Iraq sales are still the subject of the United Nations embargo imposed after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Gulf nerves also brought a see-saw day for the dollar. The pound, however, was unchanged against the mark at DM2.8174, and at the 4pm Bank of England close was up 0.63 of a cent against the dollar at \$1.9255. But against the mark the dollar fell from DM1.4690 to DM1.4625.

London October futures for North Sea Brent crude rose 20 cents to \$20.15 a barrel in far eastern trading but eased to 15 cents in London and closed at \$20.02 as United Nations inspectors said they had been successful in gaining access to a Baghdad government ministry. Oil markets remain concerned about any violence in

the Gulf, source of a quarter of the world's oil. Nerves were heightened by reports that America and its allies might yet ban Iraqi military flights in southern Iraq where Shi'ite dissidents oppose President Saddam Hussein.

Analysts believe that any renewed American raids could be bad for the price of oil if the raids precipitated the downfall of Saddam and the lifting of the UN embargo on Iraqi exports. A return of Iraqi oil to an already well supplied world market could create a glut, unless the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) quickly set new sales quotas.

Opec output in July was estimated at 24 million barrels a day, above the effective Opec ceiling of around 23.25 million barrels for July. Estimates put Iraq's potential oil output at around a million barrels a day.

Late payment burden grows

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE burden of late payment is continuing to grow, with bills now paid on average 26 days after the due date, according to Trade Indemnity, the credit insurance group.

Small companies typically have to wait almost twice as long as large concerns for their bills to be settled, and now have 27 per cent of their invoices outstanding a month after they are due.

The findings are contained in Trade Indemnity's second quarterly financial trends survey, designed to measure financial pressures on companies. The survey found some companies now have long outstanding debts representing more than 10 per cent of annual turnover.

However, Trade Indemnity

concluded that companies may now be doing all they can to combat the problem of bad debts. Clive Brand, senior economist at Trade Indemnity, said the "vicious circle of late payments continues to plague British industry".

He suggested that firm action was needed to force prompt payment of accounts. Many companies became bad payers because they were themselves paid late. He said: "One late payment has repercussions throughout the entire length of the payments chain."

Trade Indemnity's enquiry found companies were paying increased attention to their credit control procedures. In the past three months alone, a quarter of companies questioned said they had updated

overdue accounts procedures. More than one in five now takes extra steps to verify the creditworthiness of customers, and 17 per cent had changed debt collection methods.

However, the pace at which companies are changing the way they deal with bad debt appears to have slowed. Mr Brand said: "It is possible that a significant proportion now feel they are doing all they can to reduce their exposure to their debtors."

The Forum of Private Business has estimated that companies may be owed up to £40 billion in overdue payments.

A survey of 350 companies by the Federation of Small Businesses found that nearly half expected no rise in turnover before the end of 1994.

Comment, page 19

Burns out and not worth tuppence

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE grandiose plans at Burns Anderson to build a financial empire are not worth tuppence. That is the price the shares were suspended at on Friday. Last-ditch talks with bankers over the weekend failed to save the company and yesterday administrative receivers from Touche Ross, the accountant, were called in.

Burns Anderson said it had been talking to its bankers for the past month. It said: "The bankers, having considered in depth the proposals contained in the board's reconstruction scheme, have been unable to agree to provide the ongoing support and facilities requested of them."

The receiver has been called in to the parent company and



Harvey-Jones assured

successful businesses, the group sold its industrial divisions for more than £10 million in 1987 and soon had annual profits of £4.6 million. The shares topped 120p. Alan Moore, the chief executive who had already sold half his stake in the company at 97p a share, quit in December 1989. Sir John left a few months later with the ringing words: "I am confident that the group has never been stronger and has sound business and a management with the determination to achieve further success."

Morson, Burns Anderson Independent Network, K&L and Partners and Investors Planning Associates, are trading profitably and are spared the attentions of the receiver.

Burns Anderson's strategy

was clear: to take a group with a ragbag of interests listed on the Manchester Stock Exchange and turn it into a financial empire by buying a finance company here, a recruitment agency there.

The group focused on its financial division when diversification was the buzz word. Yet the focusing strategy, so popular now, seems to have been the beginning of the end.

By October, the shares were sliding. Since then, outlets have been closed, staff have been sacked and operations sold off. Another chairman and another chief executive have come and gone.

In February last year, only eight months after Sir John's assurances, Burns Anderson admitted it was living on the good will of its bankers. Yesterday, patience ran out.

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THE POUND

US dollar	1.9255 (+0.0063)
German mark	2.8174 (same)
Exchange index	91.8 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK

FT 30 share	1766.2 (+12.4)
FT-SE 100	2376.1 (+19.3)
New York Dow Jones	3331.10 (+2.16)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	14929.55 (+109.30)

INTEREST

London: Bank Rate: 10%	
3-month interbank: 10 1/8-10 3/8%	
6-month interbank: 9 3/4-9 7/8%	
US: Prime Rate: 6%	
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.07-3.05%	
30-year bonds: 95 1/2-95 1/4	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.9255	£: \$1.9255
£: DM2.8174	£: DM2.8174
£: Sfr2.5324	£: Sfr2.5324
£: FF9.5525	£: FF9.5525
£: Yen242.18	£: Yen242.18
£: Index 91.8	£: Index 91.8
ECU: £0.722418	ECU: £0.722418
£: ECU1.364240	£: ECU1.364240
London Forex market close	

GOLD

London: Fixing	AM \$337.50 PM \$337.40
Close	\$337.50-338.00
	£175.10-175.60
New York:	
Comex	\$336.35-336.85*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep)	\$19.85/bbl (\$19.85)
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RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 129.3 June (1987=100)	
* Denotes midday trading price	

Arthur Lee sells two businesses to UES

By OUR CITY STAFF

FURTHER rationalisation at Arthur Lee, the Sheffield steel and plastics group, means the sale of two loss-making businesses and a board shakeup that splits the role of chairman and managing director.

Lee has agreed to sell Lee Bright Bars, along with the business and some assets of Bell & Harwood, for £6 million to UES, which will also take over £1.5 million of debts.

The disposals are conditional on the Office of Fair Trading indicating there will be no reference to the monopolies commission. The Bell & Harwood deal also depends on the sale of Lee Bright Bars.

In the year to last September, Lee Bright Bars lost just over £1 million on turnover of £20.3 million. This year's interim stage loss was £588,000.

Bell & Harwood lost £494,000 on turnover of £7.4 million in the last full financial year and £14,000 loss on turnover of £3.7 million at the half-way stage this time.

The proceeds from the disposals will reduce Arthur Lee's borrowings, making additional funds available for further investment within the business and for acquisitions.

Both the businesses being sold will continue to operate from their present premises under a leasing arrangement.

Arthur Lee will focus on stainless and alloy steels, wire products and specialised plastics. Peter Lee will continue as chairman but Jim Henderson, a director, becomes managing director. David Lee, chairman of the wire and wire rope companies will take on a predominantly advisory role.

City gives cool response to thought of Mercury sell-off

By ROSEY HOBSON

SUGGESTIONS that Cable and Wireless, the international telecommunications group, could float off its Mercury subsidiary or allow a partner to buy a stake in it have met a lukewarm reaction on the stock exchange.

Although C&W shares gained 15p on Friday along with the general stock market rise, buyers failed to move through and the price was unchanged yesterday at 520p.

James Ross, chief executive, said that although Mercury, the domestic rival to British Telecom, does not need to link with another company, C&W is looking for a strategic partner to invest in Mercury.

He said selling a stake would put a value on Mercury that would make a subsequent flotation possible.

The idea is reminiscent of Rascal, the security and electronics group that floated off its Vodafone cellular telephone network while retaining a controlling stake. The idea was to give the parent company an immediate cash injection while retaining some dividend income from the Vodafone operation. However, the trial separation led to the Rascal twins being split this year.

Chris McPadden, analyst at Smith New Court, said: "Why does Cable and Wireless need the money? Shareholders have bought the group for capital growth. They have bought for the potential of new activities generating growth linked with more mature companies."

"Selling part of Mercury is like mortgaging your house. It is like a sale and leaseback deal. Mercury is about to



Seeking Mercury partner: James Ross, left, and Lord Young, C&W's chairman

produce a positive cashflow. Cable and Wireless should be looking to have all the benefits, not sell Mercury off to get a bit of cash now and part of the benefits later."

Mr McPadden said there are plenty of opportunities for Cable and Wireless to use the cashflow from Mercury to expand. The communications group has been talking of a move in Hungary and has

already bought a stake in an Australian company.

He added: "Selling Mercury is like selling the crown jewels."

Richard Ryder, analyst at Salomon Brothers, said that C&W could maximise the value of shares for its investors by linking with an American company and by floating Mercury.

He said: "Strategically, it

makes some sense for a company that is doing well in the UK, has other interests in the Far East but is relatively small in the US. If it is looking for a strategic fit, it makes sense to find it in the US."

However, he said maximising investor value would be a matter of judgment on how to spin off Mercury while maintaining the synergy of a unified group.

HK slips as Allied resumes trading

FROM REUTERS IN HONG KONG

SHARES in Allied Group Ltd (AGL) and its associates, under government investigation over two failed deals, tumbled when trading resumed.

Allied, suspended last Wednesday with nine other companies, was down HK\$0.23 at HK\$0.66 in late morning trade on turnover of 35.75 million shares, making it the third most active stock. Allied Properties fell HK\$0.32 to HK\$1.15.

"It's not quite panic selling," said Raphael Chan, manager at Sun Hung Kai Investment Services, "but it doesn't do sentiment much." Brokers said concern over whether the enquiry would lead to criminal charges provoked the selling.

The investigation is likely to last several months. "That's going to mar the performance of the shares in the near future," said Mr Chan.

The Securities and Futures Commission asked the government for the enquiry due to concerns over a failed rights issue by Wai Yick Ltd, which remains suspended, to raise funds for buying a development from Allied Properties. The enquiry is also likely to address worries about share price movements around the time of proposals to merge Allied Properties and Allied Industries Asia Securities with AGL this year.

Other share prices tumbled due to a cocktail of negative factors including Mid-East tensions and disappointing local company results. Brokers said the Hang Seng index fell 50 points in the afternoon to close down 154.74 points (2.66 per cent) at 5,667.85.

Alliance Trust beats trend despite decline

MINIMAL exposure to the Japanese stock market has helped Alliance Trust, the Dundee investment trust, to slightly outperform the FT All-Share index during the six months to end-July. The net asset value per stock unit fell 6 per cent over the period to end the half at £14.48. The trust said the value of its UK investments had held up well, unlike those in America, affected by currency movements.

However, the trust gave warning that significant improvement in the UK economy was "only a distant prospect" because of continuing high levels of real interest rates and low demand. Some profits have been taken in the American portfolio and exposure to the Far East has been reduced and concentrated on Hong Kong and Australia. The interim dividend is held at 14p. Pre-tax revenue fell from £16.6 million to £16 million.

Shani spends £1m

SHANI, the clothing manufacturer listed on the Unlisted Securities Market, is buying Lampert & Smith and Admyra Coats, MF Lampert for £1 million, to be paid out of Shani's existing cash resources. A further payment of up to £1.7 million in cash will depend on the profits for each of the two years to July 1994. The three companies make high-quality ladies' coats and suits and supply independent retailers and multiple chains. Turnover for the year to December was £6.5 million, producing a pre-tax profit of £639,000.

Plasmec fights back

RECOVERY has continued at Plasmec, the electronic components maker, where interim profits to the end of June surged to £307,000 compared with £5,000 last time. The interim dividend moves up to 1.5p from 1p. Plasmec, listed on the USM, makes telecommunication equipment such as plugs and sockets and front panels for washing machines and dishwashers. It increased turnover in the six months to £7.3 million from £6.2 million.

Enterprise Trust slips

F&C Enterprise Trust's portfolio has shown resilience in difficult conditions, according to John Slater, chairman. The half-year profit to the end of June slipped to £349,000 from £586,000 a year earlier but the net asset value improved to 45.5p a share from 44.4p. Mr Slater says: "We enjoyed a strong flow of investment opportunities and took advantage of the continuing weak market in unquoted companies to make a number of new management buy-out investments."

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Southern African neighbours sign integration treaty

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A NEW "poor man's club" was formally inaugurated yesterday in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, as heads of state or representative ministers from ten Southern African countries signed a treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The African National Congress from South Africa was present as an observer, but South Africa itself, the regional giant, was very definitely not invited.

The new development community springs out of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which was set up ten years ago to help the front-line states survive the

application of sanctions on the apartheid regime.

The aim of the new body is to promote economic integration among the ten, but some envisage it will eventually progress to political integration. Kgosiwe Mose, an SADC senior official, said:

"The thinking of the community is not simply confined to the economic community. The new treaty establishes binding obligations on members and a tribunal will be established to arbitrate disagreements. The tribunal may be the first step towards a regional parliament."

Sam Nujoma, the Namibian president, opening yesterday's summit meeting, declared that the countries of the

region were being called on to put regional interests above national considerations "and if necessary be prepared to make sacrifices and concessions in the overall interest of the region". This, he added, would be "the test of our political maturity".

The grand hopes of the new organisation have been somewhat diminished by the experience of its predecessor body. Critics have suggested that the only permanent achievement of SADCC has been the building of its secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. True, it has established transportation corridors to Beira, Maputo and Nacala, with integrated development of roads, railways and port facilities, valuable during the drought, but these could well have been established without SADCC machinery, and in any case were largely inspired in South Africa itself.

The SADCC's main contribution has been as an umbrella organisation through which multilateral aid has been channelled from western donors to member states.

Simba Makoni, executive secretary, has himself complained about the unwillingness of members to make decisions on a regional, rather than national, basis — a sentiment Jacques Delors would not doubt find familiar.

Professor Gavin Masodorp, director of economic research at Natal University, points out that the individual countries have still a long way to go in economic convergence before any kind of trade integration will become meaningful.

"Some have convertible currencies, some don't," he said. "They have widely varying rates of inflation. Mozambique and Angola have still got to find their feet in the economic world. If the treaty is to be a long road to travel, it is still a long road to travel."

Though it is widely expected that a post-apartheid South Africa will wish to join the new SADC, for reasons of political sentiment if for no other, its presence will be regarded with mixed feelings by the present members. Nonetheless, the present South Africa with 16 per cent of the population of the region, has an economy that is one-and-a-half times as big as all the other ten countries put together. In addition, the South African companies already have representation in most SADC economies, and they have been major foreign investors in the region. The ten countries of the SADC are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Changing rates: Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of Cheltenham & Gloucester

Cheltenham & Gloucester cuts interest rates for savers

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society cut its interest rates for savers yesterday, four weeks after causing the government to cut the rate paid on the National Savings First Option Bond.

C&G, the sixth largest society, cut its savers rates by an average of 0.4 per cent to widen its margins. It had put up mortgage rates on July 18 by 0.24 per cent and introduced a fixed rate account guaranteeing 10.4 per cent gross interest or 7.8 per cent net until October next year.

When National Savings cut the First Option return to 7.25 per cent for new investors from July 21, C&G restored its mortgage rate to 10.75 per

cent from July 25. But it used the opportunity to attract money to its London fixed rate account, which will remain open until the close of business next Monday.

The society is now cutting its accounts, including the London share account. This now pays 9.6 per cent gross (6.9 per cent net) compared with 10.4 per cent a month ago. The C&G relies heavily on this instant access account for its retail funding. Because savers can be withdrawn easily, it is very vulnerable to people moving their savings to more attractive rates elsewhere.

National Savings had a second round of cuts on all

accounts apart from index-linked savings certificates at the beginning of this month. Most of the leading mortgage lenders have now cut savings rates.

Andrew Longhurst, C&G chief executive, said: "C&G's rates for investors remain competitive with those available from other secure quality institutions and, with inflation at a low level, offer a worthwhile real return."

□ The Woolwich Building Society also revised the rates of its savings accounts yesterday, reducing some rates by up to 0.4 percentage points, leaving others unchanged and in one case increasing the return by 1 percentage point.

VAT fraud 'could cost £600m' in single market

By ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE removal of European border controls could cost the government up to £600 million a year in revenue lost to fraud and smuggling, according to internal studies by Customs and Excise, made public by civil service unions.

Customs officers will have to rely on honest book-keeping by importers, because they will no longer be able to levy value-added tax as goods enter Britain at ports, the unions said. Dishonest importers would be able to pocket the VAT collected from customers.

A customs spokesman said he was unable to confirm the unions' figure. However, Mike King, Customs and Excise secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, said: "The European single market will create a land of opportunity for tax fraudsters." The removal of border controls would "result in an overnight explosion of VAT fraud and the smuggling of revenue goods. The potential VAT loss is over £600 million."

The claim was made as the unions launched a campaign for the government to reverse manpower cuts and recruit an additional 2,000 VAT staff to Customs and Excise.

The union, working with the Civil and Public Services Association, has calculated that the extra officers, concentrated in local VAT offices, could bring in an additional £1 billion of uncollected revenue. They said there would also be a one-off benefit of £600 million from the collection of unpaid VAT owed by traders. According to the unions, the additional staff would cost £47 million a year in salary and employment expenses.

Mr King said: "VAT inspectors are highly cost-effective, raising well over ten times their cost in additional revenue. It seems to us mad that at a time of massive fiscal deficit and when the single market is putting millions of pounds of VAT at risk that the government has actually been cutting the number of VAT inspectors."

Customs and Excise acknowledged the "very valuable work" of VAT control officers. However, existing officers were becoming better at targeting risk areas, and would benefit from the introduction of improved computing at VAT offices next year.

The unions accuse the government of political dogma, harming its ability to collect revenues because of an "obsession" with reducing the size of the civil service. But they also argue that stamping out VAT fraud is a moral issue. "We believe the government is failing in its duty to the honest business community," Mr King said. "There is no doubt that one way dishonest traders are

able to undercut their competitors is to evade or avoid VAT. Honest companies run the risk of being put out of business."

Because of a shortage of control officers, new businesses often did not receive a visit from Customs and Excise for three years after they registered, and may never be visited again, union officials said.

Last year, Britain's 5,000 VAT inspectors brought in £1.1 billion of additional revenue and uncovered 4,800 cases of VAT fraud.

The unions said recruiting additional officers would simplify life for directors of Britain's many hard-pressed small businesses by providing better and earlier advice about VAT collection and payment.

T Cowie withdraws statement

By MARTIN WALLER

T COWIE, locked in a £30 million hostile bid for Henlys Group, the fellow motor trader, has been forced to withdraw a statement made in furtherance of the bid after pressure from the takeover panel.

Gordon Hodgson, Cowie chief executive, had said he was confident the company's share price, up 4p at 122p yesterday, "would return to its former levels of about 150p".

The company has conceded that the statement was a personal opinion and could not be substantiated as required under the City takeover code, and it has been withdrawn.

Mr Hodgson also said analysts were expecting pre-tax profits of £25 million in 1992, against a loss from Henlys. The Cowie board has had to make it clear it is not endorsing these estimates.

Last week, the panel criticised Burson-Marsteller, the public relations firm, and Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, for their actions in Dowry International's unsuccessful defence against a bid from T1 Group earlier this year.

Grant for Lucas

LUCAS Industries has appointed John Grant from Ford to replace David Hankinson, the finance director who resigned abruptly five months ago after the company chose a new managing director. Mr Grant, who joins on September 1, is head of international financing at Ford's financial services group in America.

M&S rules out bid for Galerias chain

By RODNEY HOBSON

MARKS and Spencer says it has no intention of bidding for Galerias Preciados, Spain's second-biggest department-store chain, despite persistent rumours in Spain that it would join a consortium making an offer.

However, M&S, chaired by Sir Richard Greenbury, does not rule out the possibility of buying individual stores if the chain were broken up.

Madrid newspapers reported that M&S was preparing to launch a bid with other investors who have already offered to buy the loss-making retail subsidiary from Mountheigh, the British property group that called in the receivers three months ago.

An M&S spokeswoman said: "We are not interested in bidding. We have made that clear at a number of stages. We are not bidding on our own or in a group. If somebody made a successful bid, it is possible they would want to sell some sites that we might be interested in."

She said attempting to buy individual stores from the receiver did not seem to be an option because M&S might be interested in only part of a site.

M&S has one store in Madrid and another in Seville and is looking to expand in Spain. Galerias has 29 stores. It lost £18 million in the half-year to October 1991, the latest published profit figures, and its future has been hanging in the balance since Mountheigh went into receivership with debts of £500 million.

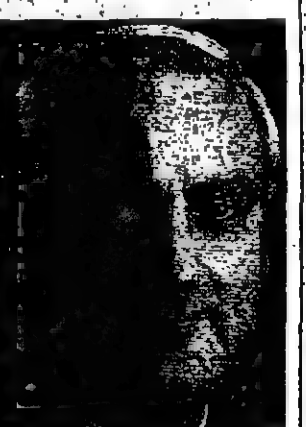
A spokeswoman for Mountheigh's UK receivers, KPMG Peat Marwick, said bids were

still being invited. She said: "Nothing has been finalised yet. It is impossible to put a time limit on things."

A group of Spanish investors last month presented a bid for the chain, together with MGP Holdings, the property firm that leases ten Galerias stores. As a result, the consultancy managing the bid, said the offer was to keep Galerias intact but depended on the results of a company audit, due next week.

Two former Mountheigh directors, American investors Nelson Peltz and Peter May, had shown interest, but a Galerias spokesman said they appeared to have withdrawn. He added that Michael Babcock, the Galerias chairman, is still interested in the idea of a management buyout.

Mountheigh took over Galerias in 1987 and launched a £100 million revamp plan in November 1990. Mountheigh shares were suspended on the stock exchange at 3p.



Sir Richard: not bidding

French inflation falls below 3%

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE French rate of inflation fell below 3 per cent in July for the first time this year, causing France's position as one of the European Community's leading nations in the fight against inflation.

But the strictures of the exchange-rate mechanism and the impact of high German interest rates mean a fall in French inflation amounts to a rise in real interest rates, one of the main reasons behind the disappointing performance of the French economy over the last year.

The French consumer price index, as compiled by INSEE, the national statistics office, rose by a provisional 0.3 per cent in July, resulting in a 2.9 per cent rise on an annual basis, down from 3 per cent in

June. This compares with an annual inflation rate of 3.3 per cent in Germany and 3.7 per cent in Britain.

The good economic news, however, will do little to help France out of recession, which is in part the result of high real interest rates. French politicians, including Michel Sapin, the finance minister, have frequently voiced criticism about high German rates, but their pleas have had little effect.

The squeeze on European interest rates may even weaken. Lothar Müller, the Bundesbank representative for Bavaria and the most outspoken hardliner on the central council, said in a radio interview over the weekend that a rise in the emergency

lombard rate could not be ruled out if the recent increase in the discount rate showed no effect. At a meeting last month, the Bundesbank raised the discount rate, mainly of domestic importance, from 8 per cent to 8.75 per cent, but left the internationally-sensitive lombard rate at 9.75 per cent. The lombard rate is presently constraining rates throughout Europe.

Herr Müller's comments highlight Bundesbank scepticism about the recent fall in annual headline inflation to 3.3 per cent. Officials maintain that the monetary indicator, such as M3, remain the best guide to the price developments in the country, and that so far there have not been any signs of fall in M3.

EXCHANGE RATES

BERLIN	305p (+10p)
Berlin	305p (+10p)
Guinness	323p (+18p)
Meyer Int	265p (+10p)
Permanon	202p (+12p)
RMC Group	484p (+24p)
Redland	424p (+15p)
Rugby Group	193p (+12p)
Argos	219p (+15p)
Kingfisher	453p (+14p)
Bowater	744p (+11p)
Eng China Clays	484p (+13p)
Gleco	724p (+12p)
Altrons	227p (+11p)
Torlines	434p (+12p)
London Int	189p (+10p)
Sot Int	380p (+18p)
MEPC	244p (+9p)
FALLS:	
Manders	198p (-13p)
Liberty	483p (-25p)
THE CHOCOLATE	685p (-11p)
Swire Pacific 'A'	221p (-11p)
Euro Disney	898p (-15p)

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GOVERNMENT securities had a very quiet day, with little change from Friday's closing levels. Dealers were suffering from a combination of apathy, fatigue and shell-shock in the aftermath of Friday's busy trading session, which caught many of them short of stock.

Little influence from European bond markets saw the gilt future up six ticks at the opening, although it ended virtually unchanged on last week's close at £97.25 on volume of only 26,000 contracts — less than half of Friday's total.

At the shorter end, Exchequer 9% per cent 1998 eased one tick to £101.50, while Treasury 9 per cent 2012 slipped two ticks to £100.50 at the longer end.

Attention today turns to the PSBR and the exact size of the next gilt auction, which is expected to raise between £2 billion and £3 billion.

1992	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	1991	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change
SHORTS (under 5 years)											
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Shake-up helps Argos counter slump



Pointing to turnaround: Roger Smith of Trimoco

ARGOS timed its withdrawal from the "shed wars" well, allowing it to benefit from a shift in its product mix away from low-margin DIY sales towards richer pickings such as toys, photographic equipment and jewellery. The result was a half-point rise in the gross margin on like-for-like sales in the first half that were marginally down on the same period last year.

Argos was late into the recession for a retailer — last year's profits fell was the first for five years — so the 1992 figures give the first indication of the management's response to the downturn. So far, it seems to have coped better than the market had expected.

Cost-cutting and a reorganisation of the distribution system restricted the fall in the underlying trading profit to 8 per cent, while slightly higher interest income on the rapidly growing cash pile cushioned the fall at the pre-tax level. Half-year taxable profits were £9.5 million, down 11 per cent, while the interim dividend was increased 5 per cent to 2.2p.

There was also some encouragement from the first

six weeks of trading in the second half of the year, when sales were slightly up on one of last year's stronger trading periods. The main question mark remains Chesterton, Argos's attempt to bring the out-of-town shed concept to those who normally prefer reproduction furniture. The four pilot stores "materially" underperformed their sales targets and lost £2 million in the first half. The company is beefing up its advertising spend for the stores but a further loss of at least another £2 million seems likely in the second half. However, the group investment in the project is relatively small. Even if the concept fails, profits should not be too seriously affected.

Shares in the company have underperformed alarmingly over the past year, hence the 7 per cent bounce on yesterday's figures. Market expectations of about £65 million of pre-tax profits for the full year would mark a slight improvement on last year and a creditable performance in still tough trading conditions. The forward multiple of just above 15 times earnings means the shares are not cheap but look fair

value in a sector that has recovered already fully reflected in the rating.

Trimoco rise from 29.8 per cent to 39.4 per cent. The bid was pitched at the lowest level permissible under City rules, the cash price in the market when conversion took place.

Past history of the Hartwell business and its 1990 takeover by the Saudi Jameel Group, one of the richest businesses in the kingdom, suggests that Hartwell may be in no hurry to clinch victory. The Hartwell takeover was done in two stages, after an initial hostile offer left the Saudis with 43 per cent.

If the bid fails, they cannot offer lower terms for at least a year. In its defence document, due this week, Trimoco, chaired by Roger Smith, will make great play of the recovery already engineered, a recovery of which Hartwell, with two nominees on the board up to the bid, is well aware. Peter Caldwell at Barclays de Zoete Wedd is forecasting £2 million pre-tax this year against losses of £578,000 to end-March.

Trimoco is an illiquid market, and holders stand little chance of cashing out at the current level. Hold on.

STOCK MARKET

Futures lead shares higher in thin trading

SHARES continued their recovery, with prices marked up in thin trading during another futures-led session, which saw volumes reach their lowest levels since July 6.

Shares drifted higher in early trade but the extremely quiet holiday trading pattern returned to haunt the London market. There was no real follow-through to the strong rally at the end of last week, so it was again left to the futures to provide any direction.

The absence of profit-taking and a few buyers nibbling at some of the stocks perceived as undervalued, saw share prices marked higher as market-makers continue to keep tight books.

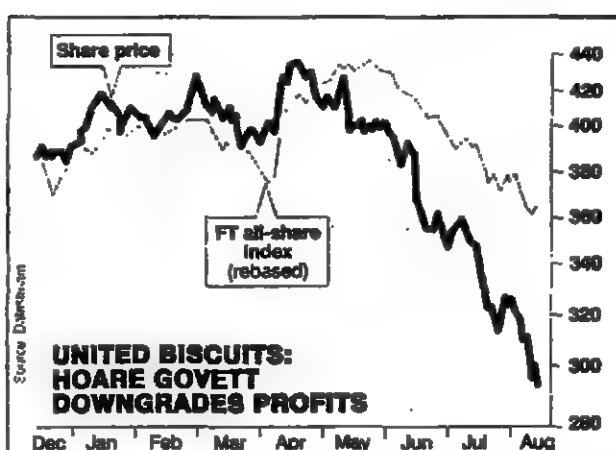
An overnight recovery in Tokyo and a positive start on Wall Street also helped to boost sentiment further in London. The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best levels of the day, up 19.3 at 2,376.1. The narrower FT index of 30 shares rose 1.4 to 1,766.2. Volume reached only a miserable 315.3 million shares.

Early concern about the latest CBI retail survey, which indicated the biggest monthly fall in sales since the survey started in 1983, was offset by cheering trading figures from Argos, Britain's biggest catalogue-based shop-

ping chain. It pleased the market by managing to buck the downward trend in high street sales and produced better than expected half-year results. Analysts were generally pleased to hear that sales, which had been marginally down when the company went into the close season, were marginally ahead and margins had also improved. The shares responded with a 15p jump to 219p.

Elsewhere in the sector, the Argos trading statement provided a boost for Kingfisher, up 14p to 453p, although Marks and Spencer eased 1p to 302p on the back of the gloomy CBI retail survey. M&S also said that it has no intention of bidding for Galeria Preciados, the Spanish group, despite persistent rumours in Spain that it would join a consortium making an offer. Elsewhere, Boots firmed 3p to 442p, GUS A 17p to £14.10, Next 4p to 87p, WH Smith A 5p to 41p and Rainers, where results and refinancing news are awaited, firmed 4p to 124p. Liberty, however, lost 25p to 488p.

The food manufacturers suffered another wave of downgradings. This time Hoare Govett has decided to trim its pre-tax profit forecast for United Biscuits by £10



million to £185 million for the current year, compared with £211.3 million last year. United Biscuits has suffered several downgradings recently on the belief that trading conditions

increased competition. William de Winton, at Hoare, blames the latest downgrade on tough trading conditions in the United Kingdom, rather than the United States. "The

A recent directory of engineering shares from Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, has generated interest in shares in which Sharp takes an optimistic view. Those seen as good quality include IMI, up 9p to 237p, T1 Group, 2p firmer at 269p, Weir Group, up 7p to 489p, and Powell Duffryn, 6p higher at 329p.

UK grocery is also worrying me," he said. He is also concerned that margins have been suffering, with no immediate signs of improvement.

Hillsdown Holdings, cur-

rently in its close season, lost 2p to 118p after BZW became the latest house to trim its profit numbers. James Capel set its forecast by £20 million at the end of last week. BZW is reducing its forecast for the current year from £210 million to £197 million, compared with £186.8 million last time.

Elsewhere in the sector, Ranks Hovis McDougall and Unigate, both the subjects of downgrades last week, eased 1p to 162p and 8p to 275p respectively, while Cadbury Schweppes lost 4p to 437p and Dairylea 4p to 386p.

BAT Industries, which is a dollar earner and seen by many as a good defensive stock, stood out among the leaders, gaining 23p to 746p. Glaxo also did well, adding 12p to 724p.

Among Lloyd's brokers, Sedgwick, the insurance broker, was on offer, falling to 138p, before recovering to close 3p lower at 144p, as some traders began to fret about a possible dividend cut with other intermediaries, but Willis Corroon, which is due to report interim on Thursday, perked up 6p to 191p.

Cable and Wireless initially moved up 4p on talk of a long-term separate listing for Mercury, but the shares ended

unchanged at 520p.

In the paint sector, Maudslays slid 13p to 198p on mounting feelings that the hostile bid from its Kalon rival might not succeed. Kalon was unchanged at 82p.

Trafalgar House, which has again been the subject of talk concerning a possible merger, saw its A shares harden 2p to 55p. Some brokers are talking of a break-up valuation of 85p a share, with the shipping and hotel sides put at 30p a share, although many in the market are sceptical of the idea that the company may float off its leisure and hotel interests.

Many building and construction related stocks rallied, recovering some of their losses. RMC Group, which Hoare Govett thinks is undervalued, gained 24p to 484p, while Redland climbed 15p to 424p.

BPB Industries added 5p to 152p, Blue Circle 4p to 187p, Hepworth 7p to 308p, Pilkington 3p to 90p and Rugby Group 12p to 193p. Bellway rose 5p to 216p, Berkeley Group 6p to 210p, Persimmon 12p to 202p, Wilson Bowden 8p to 257p and George Wimpey 1p to 114p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 3,331.10 (+2.11), S&P Composite 420.91 (+1.00)

Tokyo: Nikkei 14,929.55 (+109.30)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 5,667.55 (+154.74)

Amsterdam: CBE Tendency (113.7 +0.4)

Sydney: AO 1559.0 (+10.0)

Frankfurt: DAX 1555.42 (+7.63)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings August 17, Last Dealings August 28, Last Declaration November 12, For Settlement November 23

Call options were taken out on 17/8/92: ACF, Acorn Computers, Airtronic, Cadbury Schweppes, Kwik-Fit, LASMO, Mayflower, Pilkington, Protech, Prudential, Western Mining.

Put: Amec, BET, Medeva, Protech, Put

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	2361.0	2396.0	2362.0	2389.0	9443
Previous open interest: 49469					
Three Month Sterling	92.92	93.72	92.67	92.99	7884
Previous open interest: 245555					
Three Mth Eurodollar	92.92	93.62	92.60	93.01	1980
Previous open interest: 22006					
Three Mth Euro DM	92.92	93.10	92.90	93.18	4005
Previous open interest: 303004					
US Treasury Bond	92.92	105.25	105.05	105.14	748
Previous open interest: 1251					
Long Gilt	92.92	97.17	97.28	97.14	37470
Previous open interest: 78375					
Japanese Govt Bond	92.92	106.24	106.03	106.07	71
Previous open interest: 116181					
German Govt Bond	92.92	87.71	87.88	87.78	9999
Previous open interest: 116181					
Three month ECU	92.92	89.18	89.11	89.14	130
Previous open interest: 12447					
Euro Swiss Franc	92.92	91.53	91.52	91.57	910
Previous open interest: 49610					
Italian Govt Bond	92.92	93.75	93.60	93.65	1540
Previous open interest: 13612					

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
ICE-LOR (London 6.00pm): Contradictory headlines about tensions in Iraq saw crude levels jump up, only to retreat to Friday's levels.		
CRUDE OILS (Brent FOB)		
Brent 15 day (Sep)	19.90	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Oct)	20.00	+0.05
WTI 15 day (Sep)	19.85	+0.05
WTI 15 day (Oct)	20.00	+0.05
WTI 15 day (Nov)	20.00	+0.05
WTI 15 day (Dec)	20.00	+0.05
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EUROPEAN VIEW

Panel rethink on creeping control

Beating off a close-run takeover bid, only to find that the predator can buy control later through the stock market, is galling to the management of a target company. This is a common threat when an ill-tempered campaign ends with the bidding company sitting on 40 per cent or more of its target's shares, as recently in Greene King's offer for Morland. The City takeover panel thinks the rules need looking at again, since control can pass without a general offer and leave all the other shareholders as a powerless minority. This strikes at one of the main purposes of the takeover code. Another, though now often forgotten, was to prevent a company's management being under endless siege, damaging its day-to-day operations, by setting a three month timetable for a bid, after which an unsuccessful bidder had to wait a year before trying again.

The normal dealing rights of big shareholders have already been restricted so that they can only buy up to 2 per cent of a company's shares per year without making a bid. This itself is something of an imposition on the failed bidder, who is often left with a costly rump shareholding. In practice, the threat rarely results in creeping control because shareholders who resisted a bid have already committed themselves to management. Even in the Leucadia-Molins case, where the bidder aimed to buy control from a base stake of nearly 47 per cent, it eventually threw in the towel. The creeping takeover option is, however, an additional lever to persuade the target company to accept a new offer once the moratorium is over.

The existing rules are an illogical compromise. It would make more sense to stop control passing altogether without the consent of shareholders or a general offer. Such a rule should therefore apply to any holding of, say, 40 per cent or more. That is justified even though it would extend the powers of the panel beyond the conduct of bids and further limit the rights of big shareholders. To relieve the endless siege, the panel would have to take the more dramatic and unlikely step of obliging an unsuccessful bidder to sell stock bought during a bid to bring its holding down below the level of threat.

Overdue debt

Efforts by the CBI to persuade its (mainly large) members to recognise the dangers posed to their (mainly small) suppliers by late payment of bills appear to have fallen on deaf ears. Nearly 400 companies from AEA Technology to Zan Ltd declared their support for the CBI's prompt payment code last May and doubtless others have signed up since. Yet, according to the latest survey from Trade Indemnity, bills are still being paid an average of 26 days beyond their due date.

Despite its policy of benign inactivity in economic policy largely induced by the ERM straitjacket, there are useful measures, lots of them, that the government can consider. Having yesterday highlighted a German example that facilitates borrowing at below-commercial bank rates for small companies, we commend to politicians sunning themselves on the beaches some consideration of tougher action to spur on slow payers.

The budget proposals required larger companies to report annually on how quickly they settled bills. The government will also expect undertakings of prompt payment to sub-contractors to those winning official business. Fine, but this is not working sufficiently quickly. A receiver acts more quickly. The CBI's proposals to cut court judgments to little more than a month should be swiftly introduced.

Wolfgang Münchau
claims Britain would
benefit from the
loan-guarantee role
of an agency such as
Frankfurt's KfW

Britain has a unique difficulty with the European exchange-rate mechanism in that official interest rates may have come down to within a whisker of Germany's, yet the interest rates that people actually pay are still considerably higher. This is especially true of small and medium-sized companies, which face a far more hostile interest rate environment than their German counterparts.

This phenomenon is only partly related to the inefficiency of the British banking sector. The underlying problem is that the British government's enthusiasm for the ERM has been limited to the formal aspects of the system, while the government refuses to countenance policies which would make life more tolerable in such a hostile environment. Such policies are commonplace, however, elsewhere in Europe.

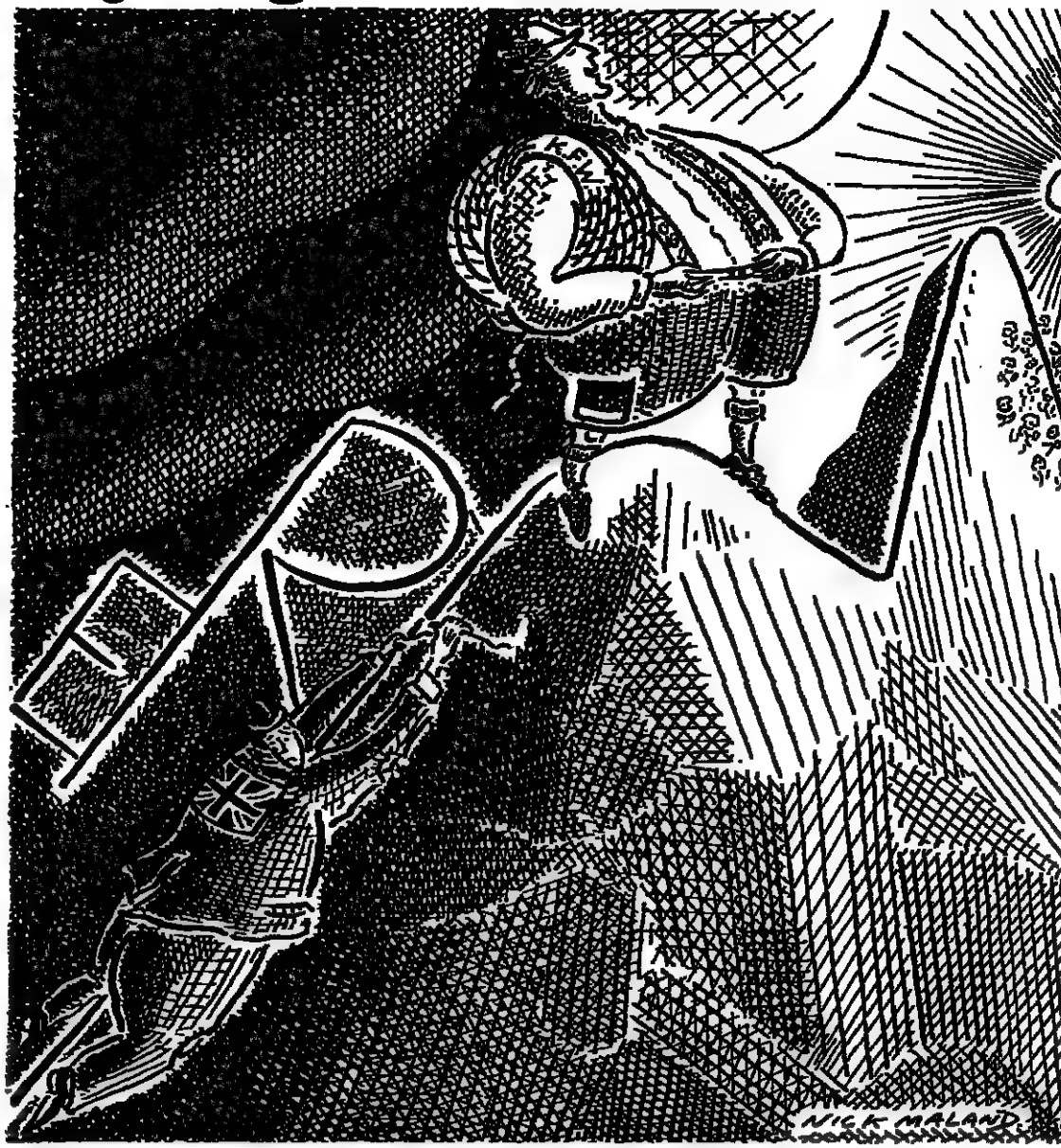
Among the most effective policies are those that deal directly with the burden of interest rates. Indeed, if there is one German institution worth copying it is not the otherwise laudable Bundesbank, at least not if the aim is to make life more tolerable in the short run; instead, I would recommend another Frankfurt-based institution, the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*, or KfW for short.

KfW is already well known in international capital markets, where it is a frequent issuer of bonds considered to be among the best risk second, thanks to the institution's triple-A credit rating.

Established in the late-1940s with funds from the Marshall Plan, its job is essentially to pass on the low interest rates at which it can borrow in international markets to the country's small and medium-sized company sector. It has also played a vital role in developing a small company sector in eastern Germany.

Suspicious readers may detect here a violation of free-market principles and undue interference by an all too visible hand. This is indeed so. But this observation needs to be put into perspective: the German government is involved only as a guarantor and owner of the majority stake. Apart from an initial, modest cash injection at the time of its creation, the government has never had to contribute a penny, and thanks to the country's generous rules of public financing, KfW does not even appear in the budget, although it does enjoy some tax privileges.

An institution like KfW is especially important in times of high interest



Helping hand: KfW has made the climb to success easier for small companies in Germany

rates. It cannot offer interest at levels below short-term market rates, but it can ensure that a considerable part of the economy is relieved from paying an undue interest rate margin on top of an already high rate. Small companies in Britain know only too well that the margins and the charges are frequently more painful than the actual level of the base rate.

The financing "trick" used by KfW is similar to that used by international financial institutions, such as the World Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which use their good credit rating to make capital available to companies that would otherwise not stand a chance of attracting loans. KfW can thus be considered a development bank for the small to medium-sized company sector by allowing them access to loan capital on terms similar to those that large companies can command on international capital markets. Over the years, KfW has become an important pillar of the German economy, whose

success was to a great extent due to the health of the medium-sized company sector. The bank has assets of about £50 billion, and a substantial number of companies have benefited.

The crucial point about KfW is not that it allows access to capital where capital would otherwise not be available, but that it levels the interest rate gap between small and large companies, thereby removing one of the greatest and most systematic disadvantages for small companies.

The numerous British attempts to achieve something similar, such as the Bolton and Wilson committee reports of the 1970s which eventually led to the Loan Guarantee Scheme, focused on the availability of capital and not on the terms. The classic argument against such government-aided schemes is that the real shortage is not finance but the number of business proposals of

sufficient quality, so that such schemes are frequently nothing other than a subsidy of uncompetitive businesses. While this is possible in theory, KfW would have gone bankrupt long ago if this were true to any significant extent.

KfW insists that the interest rate is no higher than 1 percentage point above market long-term rates, typically between 8.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent for most schemes at the moment. The loans are for up to ten years, and repayment does not start until the third year. The various schemes on offer have in common that long-termism is not merely encouraged, it is without alternative.

The system works through the commercial banking sector. The bank lends to the client and KfW's role is to refinance the loan. For the banks this means a guaranteed, though limited, profit. KfW avoids direct competition with banks, while for customers the set-up is fast and unbureaucratic.

The contrast with Britain could not

be greater. The main success on Britain's otherwise grim record is 31, which was set up in 1945 by the Bank of England and the English and Scottish clearing banks as the Industrial Finance Corporation. In 1983, IFC changed its name to Investors in Industry, now better known as 31. It invests long-term, in a mixture of equity and debt, and while it is a worthwhile institution in its own right, 31 does not have, or claim to have, such a wide-ranging remit as KfW.

31 is also considerably smaller: in its last financial year, its total commitments amounted to £424 million. During the first nine months of last year, KfW's commitments were DM33 billion, or £11.7 billion, including DM14 billion of investment loans for small and medium-sized companies. Since KfW's role is to finance a maximum of two thirds of any given investment, and frequently less, the total amount mobilised by its loans is invariably much higher.

One could level a number of arguments against such an institution: it might, for instance, be argued that the institution amounts to a disguised form of industrial policy. KfW's official policy is not to show any sectoral or regional preferences, but, if taken to the extreme, total neutrality is impossible if only because small and medium-sized companies are likely to be concentrated more in some sectors, such as retailing, than in others, such as the production of nuclear warheads.

The principal argument against such an institution in Britain, however, would be that under the country's archaic financing rules, a government-backed initiative such as this would constitute a constant drain on the public-sector borrowing requirement. Whether this is true or not would require some detailed investigation. The Germans, however, manage to keep certain "nasties", such as the federal railway system, off the national balance sheet. Thanks to the European habit of harmonising on the lowest common denominator, this practice may well catch on.

In Britain, the plight of small companies was highlighted extensively last year, when banks came under sharp criticism for behaving unreasonably towards their small-business customers. The general discontent will not disappear either, as bankruptcies among small companies tend to rise long after an economy moves out of recession.

Since base rates will remain an inflexible instrument as long as Britain is committed to the ERM, institutions such as the KfW may become fashionable after a decade of ideological non-interventionist purism.

And who knows, Norman Lamont may even justify such interventionism on the grounds that it is "a price well worth paying".

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Glaxo takes no chances

GLAXO, one of only four companies to score a zero rating in the controversial points-for-imaginative-accounting table compiled by Terry Smith, the suspended UBS Phillips & Drew analyst, was taking quiet satisfaction from its rating yesterday. According to Miles Broadbent, chief executive of Norman Broadbent, the head-hunting firm, who was retained earlier this year to find a new finance director for Glaxo, it is not a state of affairs that has come about by chance. With the new finance man now in place — John Combe, 47, Glaxo's financial controller, took up the post a month ago — Broadbent now reveals that Sir Paul Girolami, Glaxo's chairman, issued him with a brief before he began his search. It read: "His task is first of all to ensure that he carries out meticulously his legal duties to the board and to the corporation, by ensuring that objective financial, statutory and management information is provided to the board, and that the accounts and accounting principles adhered to are of the highest standards and integrity. The finance director has a public duty to ensure that the accounts of Glaxo will, at all times, stand up to the closest scrutiny."

On your Marks

SO RELIEVED was Peter Marks, managing director of Branstor & Gothard, the stockbroker, when charges against him of creating a false market in Maxwell Communication shares were thrown



"It's the new Argos slightly-lower-results catalogue."

out of court — the trial was halted on June 4 — that he is now organising three parties for City contacts and friends. "We normally have a party once a year but because of my trial we didn't think it was right," he says. "It lasted for 18 months, from the time I was first told I was going to be charged and it was absolutely horrendous. It's bureaucracy gone mad. This industry has been under-regulated for many years and now it is over-regulated. Everyone has to keep looking over their shoulder." Cigar-chomping Marks, known, inevitably, as "Harpo", has dispatched invitations bearing a cartoon of himself, bald and bespectacled, wearing a pair of flippers and standing alongside a harpoon and strung-up whale with the face of Robert Maxwell. "It's not meant to mean anything in particular, it's just a bit of fun," Marks says.

ALSO typical of Branstor & Gothard's sense of humour is the answerback attached to its telex number: Pickles G. "It was my idea," admits Peter Marks, managing director.

"In the days when telecons were important, we wanted something everyone would remember. It's difficult to forget Branstor Pickle."

Uphill challenge

IN SPARE moments at work, Colin Harris, an assistant director at Morgan Grenfell, has been seen heading for the stairs in the firm's Finsbury Circus building, and timing himself as he runs up and down the eight flights between the basement and the top floor. Harris, 37, is in training for an assault on the 2,400 steps in two flights of stairs in Canary Wharf tower on Saturday. "We will be running up one flight, around the top floor and down another flight," says Harris. "There are about 1,200 steps in each stairwell." In an earlier practice run, Harris managed to clock 8 minutes 35 seconds going up and 4 minutes 25 seconds coming down. "After the first five floors my legs turned to jelly and I had to pull myself up on the banister," he says, "but the training at work should have helped." Harris will be one of 20 or so contestants tackling the tower, in preparation for another, even more gruelling, race on September 5, up and down Mount Kinabalu (13,500 ft) in Borneo, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia. In aid of Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Appeal, "Running up hill uses different muscles to running on the flat," says Harris. "It's murder on the calf and quad muscles and the stairs at Canary Wharf — as well as those at Morgan Grenfell — will be excellent training."

CAROL LEONARD

Taurus may prove too complex for private investors

From Mr Geoffrey Maddrell

Sir, We in ProShare were particularly interested in the statement of Gill Ackers, Chief Press Officer of the London Stock Exchange, (August 13) that "private investors have been of paramount importance throughout the development of the Taurus project". We only wish that this had been the case. Certainly the London Stock Exchange and the government have tried to take account of private investors but the outcome is not particularly favourable to them.

While recognising that stamp duty will disappear and Taurus will eventually lower costs and simplify the whole process of operating on the stock market, let us examine the plight of private investors

under Taurus. They would receive an annual statement for every share they own, whether a transaction has taken place or not; and each of these statements will be in a different format, as they will come from different company account controllers. They will have to communicate changes of address to each of the relevant company account controllers and they must memorise separate security codes for each account in order to initiate transactions. At this point many private investors may well decide to withdraw from the market. So, there is a real danger of a further decline in individual involvement in company equity.

ProShare has been promoting the idea of one bureau for private clients, where all the individual shareholdings would be grouped together under their own name. They would then receive one consolidated statement with all of their holdings, have to remember only one security number and have one point of contact for changes of address. This proposal has strong support, although it is appearing on the scene rather late in the day due to the fact that the private investor has not previously had a voice in the development of the Taurus system.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY MADDRELL,
Chief Executive,
ProShare,
Library Chambers,
13 & 14 Basinghall Street,
EC2.

Auditors must be independent for benefit of pensioners

From Mr William Bullock

Sir, Richard Abramson's article (August 6) raises a number of important issues, but I disagree with his view regarding the independence of auditors.

He states that the argument for independent auditors is "nonsensical". I do not share this view, nor does the Social Services Select Committee, which reported following the Maxwell pension saga. Inde-

pendent auditors are very much in the interest of the members of the pension scheme, and in my view represent best practice. When conflict arises between the company and the pension scheme, over such issues as the treatment of surpluses or the extent of self-investment, it must be desirable that the auditors are seen to be independent.

Our profession is suffering enough from bad publicity

(BCCI, Polly Peck, et al), and therefore it is essential for auditors to demonstrate their commitment to the scheme and its members. This can best be achieved by being independent and therefore avoiding these conflicts of interest.

WILLIAM BULLOCK,
Audit Partner,
Pensions Working Group,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
Russell Square, WC1.

Bingham's appointment may mask a signal from the government

From Mr Clive Boxer

Sir, The enthusiasm with which Lord Justice Bingham's most welcome appointment as Master of the Rolls has been greeted, may (temporarily) mask an important signal from the government and our senior judicial officers.

In the Caparo case, Bingham LJ was one of two Appeal Court judges, later, unani-

mously overruled in the House of Lords, who ruled that auditors' duty of care should be extended to existing investors in a company.

The other overruled judge was our present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor.

Should professionals now be checking their whistles in preparation for using them rather more frequently in future?

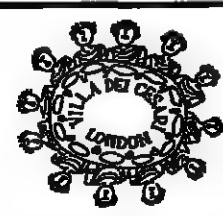
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2	MEPC	Property	
3	Standard Char	Banking	
4	Chow	Industrial	
5	Berkley	Building	
6	Abbey	Banking	
7	Boat	Building	
8	Wholesale	Industrial	
9	Fleets	Industrial	
10	CRH	Building	
11	Allied-Lyons	Breweries	
12	Warner Home	Industrial	
13	Wish Water	Water	
14	BA	Transport	
15	Smith WH	Drugs	
16	Pearson	Newspaper	
17	Read	Newspaper	
18	Ward	Paper	
19	Land	Property	
20	Smile	Industrial	
21	Thames	Property	
22	Centrad	Textiles	
23	Service	Industrial	
24	Wor	Industrial	
25	Morgan	Industrial	
26	Nat Am	Banking	
27	Bulmer	Breweries	
28	Park Foods	Food	
29	Wilson	Building	
30	BT	Telecom	
31	Ryl	Banking	
32	Honda	Motor	
33	BOC	Industrial	
34	Air	Industrial	
35	St. Paul	Property	
36	Shaw & Fisher	Building	
37	Foster	Breweries	
38	BT	Telecom	
39	Pilkington	Industrial	
40	UK	Leisure	
41	Taberna	Chemical	
42	Blockley	Building	
43	Wolsey	Industrial	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in Saturday's newspaper

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There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £8.00 will be added to today's competition.

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Shares recovery continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 10. Dealings end August 21. Contango day August 24. Settlement day September 1. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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LAW TIMES

Why juries need guidance

Lay people
need more help
to sort fact
from fiction,
writes Sheriff
Marcus Stone

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, set up in the wake of a number of miscarriages of justice, is now about midway through its deliberations on the criminal justice system. The commission is expected to report in about a year's time. Judged by its terms of reference, however, there is a serious danger that its programme may be aiming its arrow at the periphery.

The terms appear to focus on the procedure of the law and not on how facts are decided. The distinction between law and fact is central in criminal justice. The law is designed as a consistent system of general rules for application to facts and is stated in print. When necessary, its meaning is clarified by deductive reasoning.

Facts in criminal trials, however, are disputed, uncertain, obscure, troublesome and messy, and not discoverable by law. Facts are decided by evaluating evidence. This is left to the raw common sense of lay persons.

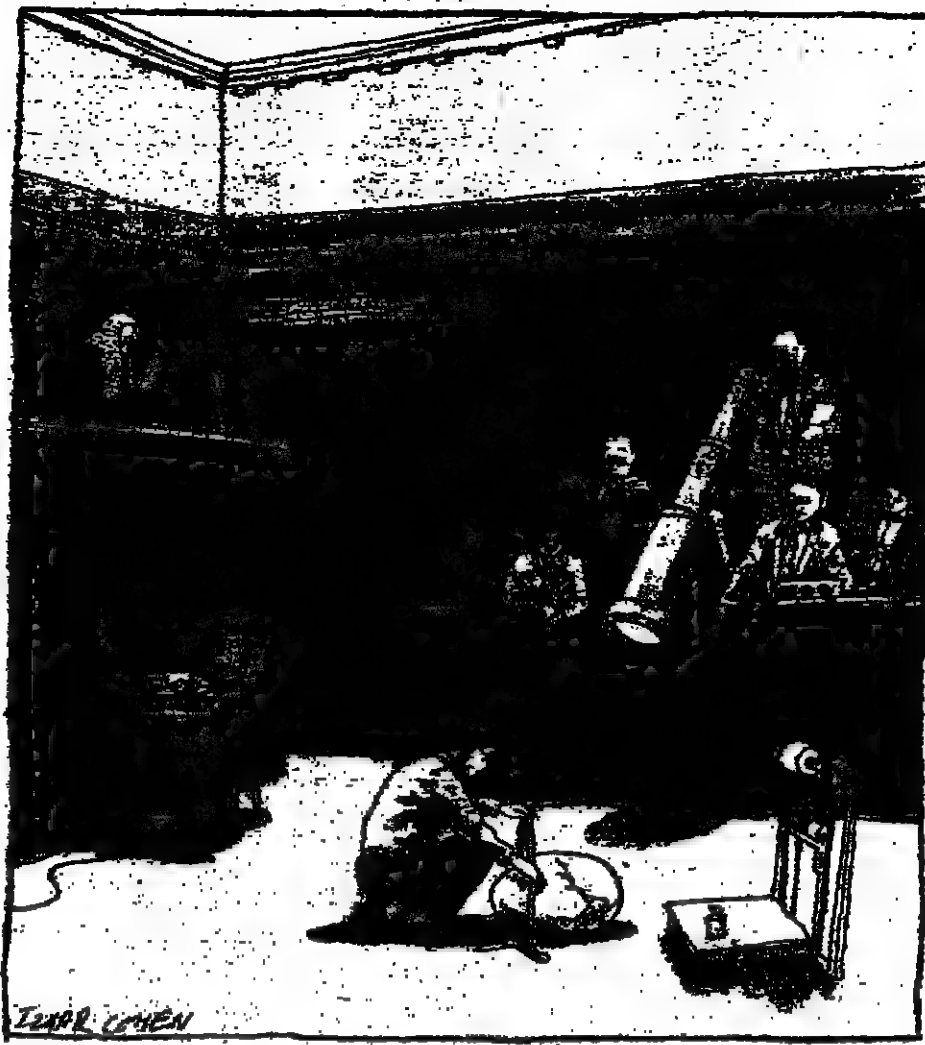
In England, lay magistrates, who can consult clerks on law, decide about 95 per cent of all criminal trials. Lay juries, directed by judges on law, decide all serious crimes. The non-legal thinking underlying these decisions is not disclosed.

Essentially, the law is a framework for the central process of lay fact-finding. Criminal law defines the facts that constitute crimes or defences. The image of a criminal trial tends to be that of a process of legal reasoning, but the dispute is nearly always about fact.

Over-emphasis on law has practical effects. It leaves the process and validity of lay decision on facts in total obscurity. As long as verdicts comply with the rules of evidence and procedure, and criminal law, they are beyond criticism. Yet a decision may be legally impeccable, although its factual basis is wrong. If so, an appeal will not reveal this. Legal tests are not enough.

Exceptionally, new facts emerge that expose the facts underlying legally sound verdicts as false or unacceptable. If any changes in rules or procedures are contemplated, to prevent a recurrence the faulty fact-finding itself should not be ignored. The rules of evidence and procedure are indispensable and often require improvement, but they should not be confused with judgment.

The problem emerges with the terms of reference of the commission, covering events before, during and after criminal trials. The main section relating to the trial foreshadows inquisitorial procedures. It deals with "... the powers of



TEAR LAMEN

the courts in directing proceedings, the possibility of their having an investigative role both before and during the trial, and the role of pre-trial reviews, the courts' duty in considering evidence.

These terms of reference will

judges can eliminate the need to detect false or mistaken testimony in court. Appeal or review machinery to correct wrong verdicts is essential, but far better if they are right in the first place.

What could be done about fact-finding? Within the framework of the present court system, the answer must be training, guidance and review. Training refers to the education of judges, magistrates and lawyers in evaluating evidence.

Guidance applies in the courtroom. Review of challenged factual decisions after trials is outside the scope of this article.

Judgment in evaluating evidence cannot be governed by rules or given way to psychology or any other discipline. However, sound analysis can help by removing misconceptions and developing insight. Relevant

confine the commission to questions of procedure, mainly concerned with who does what, and when. Somebody at some stage, however, must decide the facts for conviction or acquittal.

The problem will not go away. No amount of pre-trial filtering or laundering of evidence by police, prosecutors or

Criminal courts should promote new ideas on evaluating evidence

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tant subjects are the reliability of observation and memory, including visual identification, explored in depth by a government committee.

Courts are infested with lies. Unsound traditional practices such as trying to detect lies from a witness's demeanour should be discarded. The significance of other tests of credibility, such as character or motivation, could be clarified.

The main key to judgment, objective analysis of evidence, and applying criteria of possibility, probability, consistency, weight and the contradictory case could be explained. Drawing inferences from circumstantial evidence and assessing opinion evidence could be studied.

If the statutory training of the 28,000 lay magistrates included instruction on how to evaluate evidence, that alone would be a great contribution to criminal justice. To the credit of the Lord Chancellor's department, it has already held, or approved, a few such courses.

If the academic and vocational training of barristers and solicitors were to include both advocacy and the assessment of evidence, their presentation and testing of evidence would be sharpened, to the benefit of the courts, and it would prepare some advocates for the bench.

Crown court judges could readily absorb training to improve and amplify their directions to juries on assessing evidence. However, the accepted division into questions of law for the judge, and questions of fact for the jury, would require qualification. Judges' directions would need more latitude and less vulnerability to appeal on the ground of influencing juries, or misdirection.

Guidance of juries by judges and advocates who had been trained would be sounder. Juries would also be less open to misconceptions if citizens were better informed. In advancing into the 21st century, criminal courts should, apart from devising new procedures, promote new thinking about how to develop skill in evaluating evidence and in deciding facts.

The author is a judge and has written books on proving facts in criminal trials.

The acceptable face of judge mark III

THE Lord Chief Justice's exhortation to judges to change the appearance they present to the public will produce the third kind of judge I have seen in my lifetime - I shall call this the judge mark III. I started practising at the Bar in 1935 before judges mark I. In 1961, I became a judge mark II, a model many now think should be replaced because of suspected arrogance and inability to identify miscarriages of justice.

Memories of the judges mark I have coloured the opinion that the press and some members of the public have had of judges mark II, a model introduced by Lord Parker as Lord Chief Justice in 1959. It is difficult now to appreciate how badly and without public protest many judges behaved before then. I remember one example because it probably saved the life of my client, on trial for murder before Mr Justice (Reginald, not David) Croom Johnson. A juror stumbled reading the oath. The judge ordered him, rudely, to read it again. He did, but no better. The judge said: "Usur, that juror is illiterate. Read the oath to him and let him repeat it."

Afterwards the juror ostentatiously took his spectacles from his breast pocket, put them on and glared at the judge. My junior whispered to me: "Whatever the judge wants the jury to do, that juror will do his best to see they do the opposite." When the judge summed up, it was clear he wanted a guilty verdict. The jury was out a long time. The verdict was not guilty.

In my early days at the Bar, women were repressed if they did not wear hats in court. Unless witnesses were obviously crippled, they were never invited to sit. Counsel, defending in criminal cases after their clients had been arraigned, had to ask the judge for permission for them to sit down. Some judges refused, but few did so after Maurice Hume KC pointed out to Mr Justice Horridge, who was often reluctant to grant leave to young men, that Titus Oates had been permitted to be seated by Judge Jeffries.

Lord Parker made clear in his judgments that this kind of judicial behaviour was to stop but avoided doing so in terms likely to attract headlines. Perhaps the judiciary's reputation would have benefited if he had been more forthright.

One memorable change he achieved was to stop judges from suggesting, when summing up, that a defendant who challenged police evidence was accusing officers of perjury, thus leaving the jury to infer that a not guilty verdict would result in the officers being prosecuted.

Lord Taylor will, no doubt, by example, exhortation and an occasional public reproof, stop judges from being inconsiderate

to all who have to attend court. He will have to be firm with court officials who overload the lists, with resulting inconvenience to public and lawyers.

His wish that judges should be more willing to comment publicly on legal issues will require him to lay down clear guidelines. If judges are permitted to use their discretion about when to do so, the result is likely to be undesirable public controversy. He will have to decide what legal issues merit comment by judges and in what circumstances comment should be made. It would surely be undesirable for judges to make such comments in their judgments. A circumstance that shows this arises from the widespread dislike, more by men than women, of the Court of Appeal decision that on divorce the matrimonial property should normally be divided equally between the parties. Some judges dealing with matrimonial cases think this is fair, others do not. All must follow this decision. Critical comment on it from the bench would be an affront to long-standing legal practice.

If comment in judgment is undesirable, should judges write books and articles on legal topics? In the past they were discouraged from both. The issue came up for consideration in Lord Parker's time. A Queen's Bench judge started to write critically about the criminal law for a legal journal. Lord Parker asked him to stop and the rest of us not to start. His reasoning was that a judge might in court be confronted by his

writings and give the impression that out of court and before hearing argument he had made up his mind about a point in issue.

Judges on television and radio are likely to cause problems, both for themselves and the Lord Chief Justice, because producers insist on having the right to control what is broadcast. What to them seems to be good editing may alter the sense and impact of what the judge wishes to say. The seeming belief in broadcasting circles that those watching television cannot tolerate anybody talking for more than three minutes also makes explaining legal problems difficult.

Explaining the law to the public is surely desirable. Much distrust of both the law and the judiciary arises because people do not understand why judges decide as they do. A recent example is provided by what seemed to many to be conflicting verdicts in cases in which wives killed their husbands after alleged mistreatment. Not every judge, however, has the ability to explain the law in simple terms. Perhaps Lord Taylor should nominate a few judges who have this skill to appear on television and radio and ensure they get adequate training.

The author is a retired Lord Justice of appeal.



SIR FREDERICK LAWTON

Reformer faces a big test

The new Master of the Rolls could influence a wide range of legislation

Lord Justice Bingham's promotion as the next Master of the Rolls was the second key judicial appointment within the past six months. Hard on the heels of a new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, comes the appointment of another comparatively young and energetic reformer. So the two halves of the Court of Appeal are now "under new management".

The changes may well prove as significant for the public standing of the law as the appointment to the Woolfsack nearly five years ago of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the man who set out to tackle the restrictive practices of lawyers.

What, then, will be the agenda facing the Master of the Rolls? To some extent, the agenda is made for him, but he will be able to set his own in one substantial area, the Court of Appeal.

He can appear to be a Gibberian "model of a modern major-general", because of his reported views on incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and on court dress for judges and advocates. His disagreement with other judges in 1989 over rights of audience has also been noted.

Achieving high office at the age of 58 will put his reforming spirit to the test: it is only with the reality of office that the costs and difficulties of achieving reform come into focus.

The new Master of the Rolls will be closely involved in the development and reform of the solicitors' profession, as it goes through a period of re-evaluation and re-orientation. As one of four designated judges under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, he will take a vital part in making



Lord Justice Bingham

important decisions on rights of audience and on conduct of litigation.

Still pending before the Lord Chancellor and these judges is the government application for rights of audience for civil service barristers, particularly in the Crown Prosecution Service. And decisions are expected later this year on a similar application from the Law Society on behalf of solicitors - whether in private practice or employed.

Lord Justice Bingham can

expect to be ennobled before too long, and thereafter to take part in Lords business. Depending on the timing, he could influence legislation on fraud, competition law, the law of contract, arbitration and modernisation of the courts.

But these are extra duties. The core of the job is the dispatch of business in the Court of Appeal. This has been his predecessors' primary concern for some years, with skeleton arguments and written judgments now standard practice there.

So practitioners will be keen to see whether his crisp precision of thought can achieve the goal of shorter waiting times, or whether more drastic measures, such as limiting the number or length of appeals or increasing the number of judges, will be required.

MICHAEL BLAIR
The author is the vice-chairman of the Bar Committee of the General Council of the Bar.

A career in law is becoming increasingly attractive to young people

BEING a student today with miserly grants and limited career prospects is difficult. But for a lucky few there has been the chance this summer vacation to sample the pleasures of life in a law office and to stake a claim to a job later. Conversations I have had with undergraduates on work experience attachment to City firms during the past few weeks underline how low morale is on most campuses.

"People are very scared about going out on the employment market," Vicky Butcher, a second-year student at St John's College, Oxford, says. "Many I know plan to delay having to look for a job for as long as possible by going on post-graduate courses or travelling."

Like many of the vacation corps, Miss Butcher is a non-lawyer, sampling the profession to test whether it might be right for her. At a time of low employment, law is attracting more interest than usual from students in other disciplines. Because firms are more interested in talent than degree prospects, this could be bad news for law graduates.

"Given the downturn in the number of jobs and the intense competition, there is a growing fear that lawyers with 2.2s may be squeezed out by historians with firsts," Jane MacCarthy, a law student from Durham University on attachment with Macfarlanes, says.

The glut of good candidates is even

Students working for a future

making some firms question whether it is worth continuing to host undergraduates during the summer. "To make it work properly," the senior partner of a leading City firm says, "requires an enormous investment of time and effort by us. We get so many applications for traineeships each year that I am questioning the value of it from our point of view."

Despite the over-supply of candidates for traineeships, top quality applicants will continue to be sought after. The vacation scheme offers a good opportunity for firms to put across a favourable image that will spread to the wider student population through word-of-mouth.

"What struck me about the firm is how genuinely friendly and informal it is," a student at Freshfields, a big London law firm, says. "I thought it would be faceless and impersonal, but the lawyers make special efforts to give you a sense of belonging to a department."

There is no question that students would be markedly poorer for not having a chance to see real lawyers at work.

Courses at many universities are still highly academic and give students little insight into the profession.

"Frankly, I was bored by my course and feeling disenchanted with the law," one student says. "But my attachment has revived my interest. Seeing the law in action you realise how exciting it can be and what a buzz it gives people."

In most cases, there is touching enthusiasm among students for the firms they visit. Almost without exception, they apply to come back for a traineeship. In some cases, they will have made a big enough impression to be at an advantage when they subsequently apply for a position as a trainee. Above all, the vacation scheme gives students with forceful characters a chance to stand out.

Emma McVey, who is studying law and French at Leicester, says: "Before coming on my attachment to a City law firm, I spent a year at Strasbourg University. There is a growing demand for lawyers who speak a foreign language, and during my attachment I had the chance to use my French. It gave me a chance to show I could be useful."

Of course, not all students will realise their ambition to work for top firms. Some will have to train elsewhere. However, by the time they qualify in the mid-1990s Britain may be back in boom and firms fighting again for their services.

EDWARD FENNELL

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Kooyonga's class to carry her to International peak

KOONYONGA can continue what has become one of the most successful seasons of recent years for Irish racing by taking the Juddmonte International Stakes at York today.

Her trainer, Michael Kauntz, regards this as her toughest assignment yet as she takes on Derby victor Dr Devious, as well as the likes of Rodrigo De Triano and Alnasr Alwasheek.

However, I feel she has the class to succeed.

Kooyonga, the top-rated three-year-old filly over a mile last season, has proved this year that the step up to ten furlongs holds no fears for her, notably when winning the Eclipse Stakes in July.

It was a performance that carried the heady scent of class, and on that display she readily holds Zoman and last year's winner Terimon. Similarly, she holds Gussy Marlowe on Prince of Wales's Stakes form at Royal Ascot.

Wherever Ruby Tiger finishes, All At Sea should not be far away judging on their run in the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood. There was only a neck in Ruby Tiger's favour that day and, while today's good ground may be more to All At Sea's liking, they still have something to find with my selection.

Seattle Rhyme provides a different sort of puzzle. He stamped himself as a two-year-old of some potential last season when winning the Racing Post Trophy.

He was winner favourite for the Derby but injury has restricted him to one inconclusive run at York last month. He may still be a champion waiting to prove his worth but, as Arzet proved, relying on a juvenile form can be a dangerous — and costly — game.

When Dr Devious powered home to victory in the Derby, he looked a leading contender for the year. Yet he was quickly knocked from his pedestal when beaten 12 lengths by St. Jovine in the Irish equivalent.

Peter Chapple-Hyam ascribed that performance to the effects of a virus, which had taken hold in his yard. Now he is trying to retrieve his reputation, but Chapple-Hyam's feeling that Dr Devious may be short of work hardy suggests well for his chances.

Chapple-Hyam is also represented by his dual 2,000 Guineas winner Rodrigo De Triano, who was withdrawn from the group one Prix

Jacques le Marois at Deauville on Sunday because of the heavy ground. Rodrigo De Triano was favourite for the Derby but never got into the race and his ability to stay this extended ten furlongs must be taken on trust.

Alnasr Alwasheek showed his liking for this course and distance when making every yard of the running to win the Dante Stakes in May. He quickened the pace well over two furlongs out and kept on strongly to beat Great Palm by three lengths.

However, he is held by Dr Devious on their form in the Craven Stakes where Alnasr Alwasheek won by a length

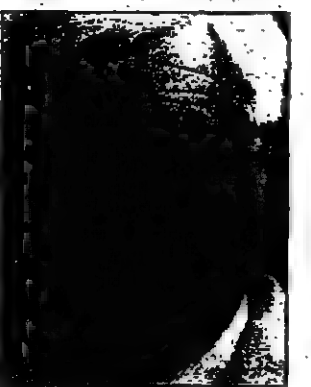
and a half, but in receipt of 5lb, and in the Derby where he finished seventh.

For the nap, at more rewarding odds, I turn to Bertie Wooster in the Eagle Lane Handicap. The nine-year-old looked to be a spent force earlier this term but came back in winning form, after almost two years, at Ascot last month, only to put up a somewhat lacklustre performance in the Stewards' Cup the following week.

Realistically, he had little chance that day from stall 30 in a race dominated by low-drawn runners. However, the draw can work in his favour this time. So far this season a high draw has appeared an advantage in sprint handicaps here and, the larger the field, the more marked the advantage.

With a draw of 21 in a 23-runner field, Bertie Wooster, who is still on a similar mark when winning at York two seasons ago, can take the honours.

Steve Caughan returns from his suspension today and can celebrate by winning the Great Voltigeur Stakes on Sonus, who was doing his best work at the finish when fourth to Beyron in the Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot.



Kauntz trains Kooyonga

3.10 JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES

(Group 1; £164,852; 1m 2f 85yd) (12 runners)

301	(8)	00-3408	TERIMON 24 (C.D.F.) (Dewey Lady Bowerbrook C British 6-9-8)	M Roberts	91
302	(9)	41-2216	ZOMAN 45 (D.F.S.) (F. Salma) P Cole 5-9-4	A Munro	92
303	(7)	0-00018	GUSSY MARLOWE 17 (C.D.F.) (Mrs J Van Gers) C Brittain 4-9-3	W Carson	91
304	(11)	20-5311	KOONYONGA 18 (D.F.S.) (M Hagg) M Kauntz (10-1) 4-9-3	W O'Connor	93
305	(10)	111-321	RUBY TIGER 17 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J Blacker) P Cole 5-9-3	T Quinn	92
306	(13)	13-1010	ALNASR ALWASHEEK 76 (C.D.F.) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Stouts 3-8-12	S Caughan	94
307	(4)	406120	BOZBAO 35 (C.D.F.) (T Mills Ltd) W Carter 3-8-12	J Carroll	94
308	(12)	121-212	DR DEVIOUS 51 (B.F.S.) (C. Craig) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-12	J Field	97
309	(5)	92-131	MASAD 31 (D.F.) (Mrs G Zancovich) L Camm 3-12	L Dettori	91
310	(6)	1-41104	RODRIGO DE TRIANO 63 (F.S.) (R. Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-12	L Pigott	92
311	(3)	12151-2	SEATTLE RHYME 39 (B.F.S.) (Mrs H Sann) D Elsworth 3-9-12	C Aernuense	86
312	(2)	1-11122	ALL AT SEA 17 (C.D.F.) (K. Abudali) H Cecil 3-8-9	Pat Edley	93

BETTING: 8-4 Kooyonga, 11-2 Dr Devious, 8-1 Rodrigo De Triano, 7-1 Alnasr Alwasheek, 8-1 All At Sea, 9-1 Ruby Tiger, 14-1 Zoman, 20-1 Masad, Terimon, 25-1 Seattle Rhyme, 33-1 Gussy Marlowe, 150-1 Bozbaao.

1991: TERIMON 5-9-8 M Roberts (15-1) C Brittain 6 ran

Form guide to the 12 contenders

TERIMON

Jul 25, Ascot, good to firm: (8-7) 1st 8th to St. Jovine (8-7) (1m 4f, group 1) King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, £251,214, 8 ran.

Jul 4, Sandown, soft: see KOONYONGA.

ZOMAN

May 31, Longchamp, soft: (8-2) 1st 8th to Arctique (8-2) a neck (1m 1f 85yd, group 1) Prix d'Esplanade, £21,387, 11 ran.

May 18, Curragh, good to yielding: (8-1) 1st 8th to Dr Devious (8-1) a head (1m 2f 85yd, group 1) Prix de la Forêt, £23,125, 7 ran.

GUSSY MARLOWE

Aug 1, Goodwood, good to firm: see RUBY TIGER.

Jul 4, Newmarket, good: (8-1) 1st 8th to Lovelock (8-1) 3/4l (1m, group 1) Falmouth Stakes, £23,300, 7 ran.

Jun 27, Curragh, good: see RUBY TIGER.

KOONYONGA

Aug 2, Murlagh, good: (8-7) 1st 8th to Zoman (8-7) 3/4l (1m 2f, group 1) Coral-Eclipse Stakes, £152,336, 8 ran.

Jul 4, Sandown, soft: (8-2) 1st 8th to Oper House (8-2) 1/2l (1m 2f, group 1) Coral-Eclipse Stakes, £152,336, 8 ran.

Jun 18, Ascot, good to firm: (8-1) 1st 8th to Zoman (8-1) 3/4l (1m 2f, group 1) Coral-Eclipse Stakes, £152,336, 8 ran.

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MASAD

Jul 18, Newmarket, good: (8-0) 1st 8th to St. Jovine (8-0) 3/4l (1m 2f, group 1) King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, £251,214, 8 ran.

May 31, Capenelle, good: (8-2) 1st 8th to St. Jovine (8-2) 3/4l (1m 2f, group 1) King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, £251,214, 8 ran.

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Northamptonshire start title charge

Taylor provides the late movement for championship

By PETER BALL

BOURNEMOUTH: Northamptonshire (22pts) beat Hampshire (5) by ten wickets

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE are timing their Britannia Assurance county championship burst to perfection. Yesterday they took up the challenge to Essex, moving into third place, 35 points behind the leaders, as Hampshire collapsed abjectly after lunch to the swing of Paul Taylor, who took a career-best seven for 23 as Hampshire lost six wickets for one run.

"The top of the table is like a motorway, all jammed up at the moment," Allan Lamb, the Northamptonshire captain, said. "We got one win and go from sixth to third. We've got five games left. If we win four of them we've got a very good chance of winning three, an outside chance."

Essex remain in pole position and still hold a significant lead but Northamptonshire, who visit Bristol today and play Kent, another of the contenders at Northampton on Friday, have as good a run-in as anyone.

The ease of yesterday's win, however, surprised even Lamb, who had thought a target of 150 the height of optimism as Hampshire

made steady progress in the morning. Even then there had been hints of what was to come. Middleton edging Ambrose to slip and Gower playing an indecisive stroke after looking comfortable.

"That wicket has always held up, so if you bowled in the right place it wasn't easy to score," Lamb said, "and after lunch Paul got it to swing."

Even so, the speed of the surrender took everyone by surprise, including Taylor, who found the ball swinging as never before, and returned his best figures to reach 50 wickets for the season. His winter's coaching session from Dennis Lillee had paid full dividends, but as he ran in and swung the ball late, left arm at a brisk pace, it looked as if he had been learning from Wasim Akram.

James had been his first wicket on Saturday, Smith was the first yesterday, surprised by one which came in, Ripley holding a fine catch, diving to leg, off the inside edge to begin Hampshire's collapse in which six wickets fell in 13 balls.

Taylor claimed five of them. The sixth was Nicholas, who almost predictably found Ambrose's pace and lift too much for him. Nicholas sur-

vived five balls from Ambrose before falling to the sixth, to set in train a spell of five wickets in seven balls.

Four fell in Taylor's next over. Ayres, who had resisted with determination, was the first to go, picked up at bat and pad. Ayling became the first of two leg-before first ball deliveries which "did a hell of a lot", according to Lamb. In between, Udall avoided the hat-trick before edging to Ripley.

Marshall, who had been a horrified spectator, restored a little sanity by playing a maiden from Ambrose. Then came Shine, who, together with Ambrose, provided light relief.

Ambrose may not have seen the humour, launching so determinedly into his efforts that he overstepped the mark, a 13-ball over seeing Shine out twice off no-balls and attracting a warning for the use of bouncers as Shine swung around him happily, edging or muddling four.

A stand of 20 brought up the three figures before Taylor had the last word, picking up his seventh wicket. "Conditions were perfect, it did a lot when it warmed up after lunch, but they didn't offer much resistance, did they?" Reflections of a happy bowler.



Soaring blow: Giffon, of Leicestershire, lofts Bolling, the Surrey off spinner, for six at the Oval yesterday

Leicestershire stay on title scent

By JACK BAILEY

THE OVAL (final day of three): Leicestershire (22pts) beat Surrey (6) by 72 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE may not exude glamour. They possess no stars and they have few pretensions to being an exciting team to watch. But they do pull together in the most extraordinary way and under Nigel Briers their keenness is transparent. Given that, their victory over Surrey with three balls to spare — a victory which took them to second place in the championship — should occasion no real surprise, but it was indeed remarkable.

It also owed much to Surrey's own desperate search for a win. Set by Briers' declaration to make 266 from 51 overs, a rate higher than any achieved previously on a pitch which always gave the spinners hope, they went for their lives right down to the fall of the seventh wicket, and while Lynch was still there the task of scoring 80 in fewer than ten overs seemed just possible.

Lynch had raced to 50 from 39 balls. In all, he hit 14 fours in an innings of rare quality. When he left the scene, Surrey's last two wickets had to endure for eight overs, but Potter's left-arm spin and two good catches denied them, almost at the last gasp.

Potter was entrusted with the Vauxhall end for 18 consecutive overs and he served his team admirably, as did Parsons for a large part of Surrey's innings, bowling

with the pavilion behind him. Potter's four for 73 speaks eloquently of his contribution, but the figures of Parsons do him less than justice.

Parsons' heroic spell of 20 overs on the trot — or rather the gallop; he walks back so quickly and fairly pounds up to the crease — came to an end with Surrey needing 84 from ten overs with four wickets remaining. The mastery of Briers where bowling changes were concerned had left Surrey with an outside prospect of victory while Lynch kept going. Now his first change in 28 overs ensured a shift of tempo and of fortune.

Boon had previously taken only nine first-class wickets. Now he caught Benjamin off his own first ball. In his next over, he struck again with his

first ball. This time, the redoubtable Lynch was irresistibly drawn towards a wide one. Boon had bowled two wicket-maiden overs and Surrey's brave efforts had come to an end.

Leicestershire's march onward had been helped greatly by a career-best innings of 75 by Giffon, the night-watchman who over-stayed his welcome, and another neat, forceful innings by Wells. As a prelude to his match-winning bowling, Potter helped him put on 105 for the fifth wicket. Potter certainly earned his shirt. MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicestershire 200-8 dec; Suffolk 100 and 145-6 (8 M Clements 47); Match drawn.

RAPID CRICKETLINE CHAMPIONSHIP: Northamptonshire 186 (A J Hunt 67, M N Bowen 4-22); Northamptonshire 56-0.

They are developing a way of bowling — especially Waqar Younis, whose main weapon, unlike Akram's, is his speed — that imparts late swing to balls delivered with sufficient pace. As with bias on a bowling green or borrow on a putting green, the curve, or swing, begins to take effect only when the wood or the golf ball or, in this case, the cricket ball, slows down. Obviously, the greater the speed the later the lateral movement.

The baseball pitcher and Waqar have this combination of high speed and late swing in common. The method by which Waqar achieves it, with a ball worn and damaged on one side and weighted with sweat on the other, has been accepted by some of the game's most experienced umpires as being within the laws, despite a flood of innuendo.

A comparison between the record of Javed's present side and that of Haleef Kardar's in 1954 — the first Pakistanis to come to England — is informative. In 1954, they played 30 first-class matches, of which they won nine. It was the Australians who carried all before them in those days. Don Bradman's great 1948 side won 23 of their 31 first-class matches, no fewer than 17 of them, including eight of the first nine, by an innings.

Of the 18 matches Javed's side have played so far, 12 have been won — a much higher percentage than today's Australians expect to achieve — and only two lost, the fourth Test at Headingley and against Worcestershire soon after they arrived.

Pakistanis produce powerful display

By JOHN WOODCOCK

BRISTOL (final day of three): the Pakistanis beat Gloucestershire by 293 runs

THE Pakistanis were in Nottingham in good time for dinner last night, having taken not much longer to dismiss Gloucestershire in their second innings at Bristol than they had in their first on Sunday. They won by 293 runs. Akram's six wickets for 32 runs giving him 11 for 76 in the match.

Gloucestershire did find it a little harder than they had the first time round, though there was not a lot in it. Alleyne, Vaughan and Hancock got into the twenties but the Pakistanis always had plenty in reserve when anyone looked like getting stuck. Akram bowled at a leisurely pace, sometimes over and sometimes round the wicket, two balls rarely the same: there were times when he looked to be toying with the batsmen.

The Pakistanis have one first-class match left — at Scarborough next week. Yesterday, they took their winnings from the Telford Bitter sponsorship of their 12 three-day county matches to £59,750. In these, they declared 12 times — even when losing to Worcestershire, they made 374 for four in their first innings — and were seldom bowled out themselves.

They are developing a way of bowling — especially Waqar Younis, whose main weapon, unlike Akram's, is his speed — that imparts late swing to balls delivered with sufficient pace. As with bias on a bowling green or borrow on a putting green, the curve, or swing, begins to take effect only when the wood or the golf ball or, in this case, the cricket ball, slows down. Obviously, the greater the speed the later the lateral movement.

The baseball pitcher and Waqar have this combination of high speed and late swing in common. The method by which Waqar achieves it, with a ball worn and damaged on one side and weighted with sweat on the other, has been accepted by some of the game's most experienced umpires as being within the laws, despite a flood of innuendo.

A comparison between the record of Javed's present side and that of Haleef Kardar's in 1954 — the first Pakistanis to come to England — is informative. In 1954, they played 30 first-class matches, of which they won nine. It was the Australians who carried all before them in those days. Don Bradman's great 1948 side won 23 of their 31 first-class matches, no fewer than 17 of them, including eight of the first nine, by an innings. Of the 18 matches Javed's side have played so far, 12 have been won — a much higher percentage than today's Australians expect to achieve — and only two lost, the fourth Test at Headingley and against Worcestershire soon after they arrived.

Middlesex keep up challenge

MIDDLESEX completed a profitable few days at Uxbridge, their second home, by beating Yorkshire by six wickets yesterday to keep hope alive that they can add the county championship to the Sunday League title they had won the previous day (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

Mark Ramprakash led them to victory with a fine innings of 94 after Marlyn Moxon, the Yorkshire captain, had set a generous target of 231 in what turned out to be 46 overs. Although Middlesex lost both Haynes and Roseberry in scoring 38 by tees, Ramprakash and Gatting then added 97 in 18 overs and Paul Weekes (48 not out) helped add a further 93 before Ramprakash was out with only three runs needed. For Middlesex, who got home with five balls to spare, it was their third victory in the last four games and advanced them to fifth in the table.

An innings of 140 from Wayne Larkins helped save Durham from defeat against Glamorgan at Hartlepool. Larkins hit five sixes and 19 fours but Durham are 12 points adrift at the bottom.

Captains prefer to avoid run chase

By IVO TENNANT

CHESTERFIELD (final day of three): Derbyshire (7pts) drew with Kent (7)

THE loss of 50 overs because of markedly heavy showers proved insurmountable at Chesterfield yesterday. Although it would have been feasible to have had a Sunday afternoon-style run-chase late in the day, for once the captains could come to no agreement as to a contrived finish.

Thus, a contest that had promised much after two excellent days petered out in a welter of runs for Barnett. Having made 116 overnight, the Derbyshire captain finished with 160, including 22 fours, his highest score of a mixed season. Indeed, he scored an unbeaten 143 out of 267 for two to give Derbyshire a lead of 179 before a violent storm saturated the Queens Park ground. In fairness, it should be mentioned that not one run was off anything other than proper bowling.

The day had begun propitiously enough. For Cork, newly recruited by England, it was with television crews. For Barnett, it was with a four

crashed through the covers off Ellison's first ball, the kind of shot he was playing at will on Saturday.

Derbyshire were then 129 runs on, nine wickets intact. There was not the same movement as on the first day. It was variants of pace that accounted for Morris before the stoppage. As in the first innings, he was unable to fathom Ellison's changes of pace. Ellison took the catch at a wide-ish mid-off.

Then came the rain. Early lunch came and went and so did early tea. At this point, Derbyshire could have left Kent 180 to win off a minimum of 38 overs, a pleasing target on a Sunday afternoon, let alone for championship contenders. Or they could have batted on a while longer.

Mindful, perhaps, that there was little in it for his county, who mostly have only their averages to contend with, Barnett came to no conclusions with Benson. He did not have the runs to play with. For Kent, whose dominance was absolute on the first day, the championship may now be no more than a pipedream.

Hathurusinghe causes Australian collapse



Healy: saved the day

Colombo: Chandika Hathurusinghe, a part-time bowler who had taken only one wicket in his six previous Test matches, embarrassed Australia with a spell of four for 13 in 24 balls on the opening day of the first Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club here yesterday.

Hathurusinghe, whose main role is that of an opening batsman, exploited the helpful conditions with his medium-paced deliveries to help send Australia tumbling from 84 for one to 124 for seven.

The wicketkeeper, Ian Healy, then hit an unbeaten 66 to lead a recovery that lifted Australia to a total of 256. Sri

Lanka replying with were nine without loss.

Australia, put in to bat, made a cautious start but seemed to be over the worst when Hathurusinghe broke through on a pitch freshened by a shower. He had Boon caught by a diving Ramanayake at mid-off for 32, to end a second-wicket stand of 76 with D Hodgson for 34, Western Australia's last three wickets produced 132 runs.

With McDermott, Warne and Whitney giving him admirable support, Healy guided his side to comparative respectability with his fourth Test half-century.

McDermott hit the only six of the innings, off Hathurusinghe, and three fours in his 22 off 28 balls, while Warne stayed 75 minutes for his 24 and Whitney made his top Test score of 13. (Reuters)

Healy, cutting prodigiously when the bowlers dropped short, hit eight fours in a stay of 188 minutes and the last three wickets produced 132 runs.

With McDermott, Warne and Whitney giving him admirable support, Healy guided his side to comparative respectability with his fourth Test half-century.

McDermott hit the only six of the innings, off Hathurusinghe, and three fours in his 22 off 28 balls, while Warne stayed 75 minutes for his 24 and Whitney made his top Test score of 13. (Reuters)

POOLS FORECAST

THE GM Vauxhall Conference season starts on Saturday with Wycombe Wanderers firm favourites to clinch the promotion place that narrowly eluded them last time. They will, however, probably have to settle for a draw at Macclesfield, who are always a difficult proposition at home. This match rates as one of the best trouble chance bets on the coupon.

Another fixture with considerable draw appeal can be found in the first division, where Swindon Town visit Wolverhampton Wanderers. Both teams are likely to be in the promotion frame at the end of the season and both gained encouraging victories on Saturday — Wolves at

Brentford. Swindon over Sunderland. Last season's corresponding fixture was won narrowly, and rather luckily, by Wolves.

In the third division, I am taking Rochdale, who keep the momentum going by holding Southport United to a draw. Southport are shaping up well on their return to the Scottish premier division. Their 4-3 home victory over Rangers on Saturday was no fluke and that kind of form improves their chances of drawing at Aberdeen. Clyde and East Fife, among the early pace-makers in the Scottish second division, face each other in a meeting that is expected to end all square.

SECOND DIVISION
1 Blackpool v Exeter
2 Barnet v Port Vale
3 Brighton v Bolton
4 Fulham v Preston
5 Luton v Millwall
6 Macclesfield v Notts
7 Millwall v Notts
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Football club forced into oblivion

Maidstone are the League's latest casualties

By LOUISE TAYLOR

MAIDSTONE United yesterday bowed to the inevitable and resigned from the Football League. With only two registered players and no ground on which to play home fixtures, it was something of a surprise that the third division club even thought about starting the season.

A statement issued by Maidstone yesterday read: "It is with great regret that we have had to inform the League that Maidstone United FC will be unable to fulfil its League commitments for 1992-3."

"A great number of people over the last few weeks have enthusiastically tried to help save the club. Unfortunately, time has run out."

Reportedly £550,000 in debt, Maidstone had been given until noon yesterday to provide the League with assurances that they could continue. They were scheduled to visit Reading in the Coca-Cola League Cup tomorrow, but that game has been cancelled and Reading will receive a bye into the second round.

Maidstone had been unable to raise a team for their opening third division fixture at Scunthorpe United on Saturday and were effectively homeless since a mooted move to share St James's Park with

Newcastle United was vetoed by the League last week.

Maidstone, who were only elected to the Football League in 1989 — after 20 years of trying, arrived in the then fourth division with grandiose plans for constructing a new stadium and leisure complex.

In the meantime they shared Walling Street, the home of Dartford, the Beazer Homes League club, which has now been sold to developers Jim Thompson, the ambitious Maidstone chairman, assured everyone that this was only a temporary state of affairs.

But Thompson's scheme fell foul of the local authority and failed to receive planning permission. Disillusioned, he eventually resigned as chairman last May.

The club was then taken over by a consortium of Tyneside businessmen headed by close associates of Sir John Hall, the chairman of Newcastle United. They conceived the plan of moving Maidstone to Newcastle but when the League said that it had to stay in Kent, the consortium's interest waned.

By then the club had only two registered players remaining. The others had left after not being paid for several months. Gordon Taylor, chief

executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "We have paid Maidstone players £50,000 in the form of loans and grants this year."

The League is now reduced to 70 clubs, but is "highly unlikely" to seek to expand that number. A League spokesman said yesterday: "As a result of Maidstone's withdrawal, this season's third division will operate with 22 clubs and all scheduled Barclays League fixtures will be amended accordingly."

League officials feel that with two extra Premier League clubs due to join it when that division is reduced from 22 to 20 clubs, it is unnecessary to make up the number from the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Maidstone, whose best League position was fifth in the fourth division in 1990, are unlikely to be much mourned. Last season, when they finished eighteenth, they attracted an average crowd of only 1,429, a drop from 2,427 the previous season, when they finished one place lower.

They follow Aldershot — who resigned in March of this year — into oblivion. Gordon Taylor said: "We hope the League will tighten up its rules and prevent lame-dog teams limping along for months."

Blackburn chase Bartram

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE players of Blackburn Rovers and Arsenal have obviously taken to their hearts the theory that Premier League football equals entertainment. Between them, they scored five goals and conceded seven away to Crystal Palace and at home to Norwich City respectively on Saturday.

Presumably, Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, and George Graham, his Arsenal counterpart, will be preparing to face each other at Ewood Park tonight by putting their players straight on what is expected of them.

Graham has, probably, extolled the virtues of "keeping clean sheets" to his defence, while Dalglish, clearly looking

beyond just the defence, is contemplating investing £750,000 on a new goalkeeper.

Dalglish has twice spoken to Tony Pulis, the manager of second division Bournemouth about Vince Bartram, their goalkeeper. Pulis, however, will not release Bartram, 24, unless the price is right.

The second division side will have to pay half of any transfer fee to Wolverhampton Wanderers, Bartram's former club, and Pulis said: "We will not let Vinny go cheaply. He is one of the best young goalkeepers around and certainly one of the best outside the Premier League. Kenny knows that he will have to come to us and be

able to match our valuation before we will have a deal."

Should Bartram leave Bournemouth, they could move for Gerry Peyton, 36, Everton's reserve goalkeeper. Peyton left Bournemouth a year ago but still owns a house near Dean Court.

Although Graham criticised his central defenders after Saturday's 4-2 defeat at home to Norwich City, he has spoken to Malcolm Crosby, the Sunderland manager, about the possibility of selling Andy Linington, 30, one of his centre halves, to the northeast club for a reported £700,000.

Linington's younger brother, David, will play in the same position for Ipswich Town against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tonight when his newly promoted team will seek their first Premier League win.

Nottingham Forest yesterday ended speculation linking Teddy Sheringham, their forward, with a transfer to Tottenham Hotspur. "Sheringham is a Forest player and we cannot let him go," Ron Fenton, the Forest assistant manager said.

Pat Nevin, the Everton winger, has rejected a move to Galatasaray, of Turkey, and is scheduled to talk to Tranmere Rovers, while Hans Gillhaus, a forward from Holland, most recently with Aberdeen, and Christian Beek, a German defender, have been given trials by Aston Villa.



Close-run thing: Hepworth, of Leicestershire, just fails to run out Darren Bicknell, of Surrey, yesterday but his side still managed to clinch victory in the last over at the Oval to move to second place. Report, page 24

Spinners put Essex back on track

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

COLCHESTER (final day of three): Essex (24pts) beat Nottinghamshire (3) by an innings and 37 runs

THE recurring feature of Essex's defence of the Britannic Assurance county championship has been their ability to contrive improbable victories. Few have been more improbable than yesterday's, however, and none more critical, for by bowling out Nottinghamshire in two sessions of predatory cricket, they all but eliminated the likeliest pretenders to their title.

Although Northamptonshire moved up from sixth to third place by overwhelming Hampshire, the Essex lead is now 32 points, over Leicestershire, winners over Surrey yesterday, a healthy cushion with only five games left to play. Victory over Surrey, in the second game of Colchester week starting today, would bring their fifth championship in ten years within reach.

Essex completed their first win in four games with 8.1 overs to spare, when John

Team	P	W	L	T	N	Pts
Essex (1)	17	8	5	4	22	48
Leicestershire (2)	17	7	5	5	32	30
Northants (10)	17	6	3	8	31	42
Kent (6)	17	6	2	9	48	39
Gloucestershire (15)	17	6	1	11	63	49
Warwickshire (15)	17	6	0	11	44	36
Nottingham (3)	16	6	0	5	41	39
Derbyshire (3)	17	5	4	8	36	47
Surrey (17)	17	5	4	8	35	45
Hampshire (9)	17	4	6	5	40	42
Yorkshire (14)	17	4	4	9	42	45
Sussex (17)	17	4	4	9	42	45
Gloucestershire (13)	17	4	5	8	34	48
Somerset (17)	16	3	3	10	47	42
Worcestershire (17)	17	4	10	6	47	37
Leicestershire (8)	16	2	3	11	40	42
Gloucestershire (12)	16	3	4	9	40	38
Derbyshire (3)	16	2	4	9	40	38
1991 positions in brackets						
† includes abandoned match						

Childs took the last two wickets in a single over. But it was Childs's partner, Peter Such, whose contribution through a tense, absorbing afternoon was decisive in the end.

Such was an inconceivable figure last Thursday when Essex lost to one of his former counties, Leicestershire, in the NatWest Trophy semi-final. Yesterday, against his other erstwhile employers, he took six for 39 in 30 overs of off spin, handled with great awareness by Graham Gooch,

the Essex captain, and supported by a sequence of sharp close catches.

On a dry, bare pitch at Castle Park, the ball turned, constantly and sometimes sharply, for the two Essex slow bowlers. It was, nonetheless, a victory which seemed barely conceivable when the champions began the day only 53 runs ahead, with the constraints of time further complicated by a bad weather forecast.

Gooch carried out his game-plan with an eye on the clouds, gusting in on a wind which, to great on-field hilarity, blew down the press tent in mid-afternoon. But, remarkably, he did it all without a single interruption in play from the elements.

Essex are past-masters at creating and enforcing pressure situations and, despite a slower start than they would have liked, they did so now through a stand of 96 in 18 overs between Lewis and Pringle. If Pringle is unfit for England duty, he has concealed it splendidly in this game and his 48, struck from 53 balls, allowed Gooch to declare 15 minutes before

lunch, 167 ahead and with 76 overs to bowl.

The spin plan was not exactly encouraged by Hemmings's figures of one for 122 but it was quickly plain that the Essex pair were operating on a different plane. Such, who took six for 17 to secure Essex's previous victory, over Sussex four weeks ago, was introduced for the ninth over and instantly made one turn and bounce past Broad. His second over accounted for Pollard, caught behind, and his third for Robinson, transfixed as the ball spun back on to his stumps.

Broad, the most important obstacle to overcome, nudged a turning ball to silly point before Childs joined in, making one turn and lift to have Randall caught shoulder-high at second slip. Before tea, Crawley had gone to the best of Knight's three catches, diving to his right at short-leg, and the Colchester crowd was noisy in anticipation.

Lewis and Cairns added 34 and the New Zealander, thrusting his pad in front of his bat, occupied a further ten overs. Runs were now entering the equation, the deficit down to 47, but Gooch switched Such to the pavilion end and the move worked immediately. Cairns turning a catch to leg slip.

French came in, despite a finger injury which had prevented him keeping wicket, and 11 more overs were survived before Such, switching ends again, priced out the obdurate Evans. Childs did the rest and the Essex season, which had begun to threaten total dismay, was back where it belonged.

Hampshire collapse, page 24
Pakistan win again, page 24
Averages, page 24

COLCHESTER SCOREBOARD		ESSEX First Innings	
<p>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE First Innings 249 (C.I. Cairns 82 not out, P.R. Pollard 65; D.R. Pringle 4 for 55) B.C. Broad c J.J.B. Lewis b Such 15 P.R. Pollard c Brown b Such 11 *R.T. Robinson b Such 2 M.A. Crawley c J.J.B. Lewis b Such 15 D.C. Lewis c Knight b Childs 35 C.B. Lewis not out 39 C.L. Cairns c Broad b C.C. Lewis 26 K.P. Evans b Such 13 *M.A. French bow b Childs 10 E.E. Hemmings not out 0 J.A. Alford c Hussain b Childs 0 Edrees (b 4, b 2) 6 Total 190</p>		<p>*G.A. Gooch o Robinson b Hemmings 26 J.P. Stephenson c Robinson b Crawley 74 N. Hussain c Pollard b Alford 31 N.V. Knight bow b C.C. Lewis 21 J.B. Lewis not out 39 D.R. Pringle c Broad b C.C. Lewis 48 Edrees (b 3, b 13, w 4, nb 5) 25 Total (8 wickets dec) 416 M.C. Lett, A.D. Brown, P.M. Such and J.W. Chiles to bat FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-27, 3-32, 4-33, 5-55, 6-59, 7-120, 8-130, 9-130 BOWLING: Pringle 3-1-5-0; Lett 5-1-15-0; Such 30-15-39-6; Childs 27-5-10-59-4; Stephenson 2-1-6-0.</p>	



Such: six wickets

Mansell's title leaves him dealing from right deck

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell spent yesterday relaxing at his Isle of Man home with his family, enjoying life as Formula One world champion. But, finally having reached the pinnacle of his motor-racing career, he has yet to secure his future in the sport. It is expected to be with the Williams-Renault team with which he has had such an outstanding season.

Mansell, who claimed his first title after 12 years in Formula One on Sunday at the Hungarian grand prix, is due to have talks tomorrow with Williams, leading to him signing a contract for 1993. "My aim now is to win a lot more races and to defend the championship with the same

team next year," Mansell said yesterday. "It's a team game and as anyone could see on Sunday, we worked as a team. What we have all done in the last two years has been phenomenal. We are talking now about the future and we shall be talking this week. I think we may be able to sort something out."

Mansell had refused to finalise plans for next season before the Hungarian race, in which second place, behind the defending champion, Ayrton Senna, gave him the championship. "I told Williams it was not fair to expect me to negotiate and race at the same time," Mansell said.

Negotiations have centred on what Mansell calls the "comfort zone", guarantees of

fairness in the team. He does not mind with whom he drives in 1993 as long as his position is safe from the political infighting that has characterised teams in which Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost have been senior drivers.

Mansell is also bitter towards drivers wanting to climb aboard now, understandably as Williams's faith in technological development has given the FW15 car a distinct advantage. "Senna and Prost could have come here two years ago," Mansell said. "But they didn't believe in the team. Nor did I at first, but I had faith in Frank Williams and his partners. Now they want to come in when all the hard work has been done, that is not fair."

Some drivers grow the fruit, other come in and pick it. Riccardo Patrese and I have worked hard to achieve this."

It seems certain that Prost will be Mansell's team-mate, despite Senna suggesting that he would drive for Williams for free next season, a sign that Williams is expected to continue the dominance that has brought eight wins in 11 grands prix this season. Mansell, meanwhile, is said to be asking for \$23 million (about £12 million) to drive next season. But once the euphoria has begun to wear off, he will accept what Patrick Head, the engineering chief at Williams, describes as a "a fair and very generous offer", sooner rather than later.

The champion is worried

about Prost's potential for wrecking a happy team. Those fears have been confirmed from within Ferrari, where management has blamed much of the team's disarray on the legacy of Prost's stay, which ended last season.

All of which leaves Senna, the outgoing champion, in the cold for the first time. If Senna were to take Prost's place, Williams would not have the money to pay both him and Mansell. If, the French fuel supplier to Williams and keen to see Prost, a Frenchman, in the team, might renew its threat to pull out of Formula One.

Senna's road to Ferrari is closed, too. Senior management there has been prevailed on by a team resigned to

Rugby tour to run its course

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

AUSTRALIA'S rugby union tour of South Africa will be completed this week despite the threat of disruptive action and the possible cancellation which followed the dispute over the playing of the national anthems at the international between South Africa and New Zealand in Johannesburg last Saturday.

After more than 24 hours of negotiation, during which the Australian team management became convinced that their four-match visit would end at the halfway point, Joe French, the Australian rugby union president, said yesterday that the tour would proceed. "I am absolutely certain that the game with Eastern Province (today) and Saturday's international will be played," French said.

In the absence, however, of a definite statement from the African National Congress (ANC), the threat of cancellation has yet to be lifted from South Africa's planned tour to France and England in the autumn, their visit to Australia next summer and the 1995 World Cup, to be played in South Africa. The ANC will discuss the issue with the Patriotic Front today but a spokesman said: "It's not our intention to deprive people of rugby but we don't think rugby should be a celebration of white supremacy."

"What happened at Ellis Park is a setback," Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, said. "We want all sports bodies to discuss the situation but Verwoerd will not be allowed to rule this nation from the grave." The Australians are here only because the ANC threw its weight behind the tour; had it withdrawn that support, French admitted the tour would have been aborted. The depth of feeling created by the breach last Saturday of the agreement (to which both New Zealand and Australia were a party) that no anthems would be played during any of the tour matches involving both countries is great. The flagging at Ellis Park of national flags and the playing of *Die Stem*, the anthem, symbolised, for many, contempt by the old South Africa for the new.

The breach, apparently sanctioned by Louis Luyt, president of Transvaal and whose maverick view have brought him into conflict with his own peers on the former South African Rugby Board, produced an apology from the South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU) in which the union appealed to the country not to cause any further embarrassment to the relationship with New Zealand and Australia, both of whom were "innocent" in the affair.

"We committed ourselves to certain conditions and strove to honour them," an SARFU statement read. "In particular, the observance of a minute's silence before the commencement of the Test. We regret that, in respect of the national anthems, our undertaking has been violated ... and we apologise unconditionally to anyone who has been offended by this breach."

The statement was drawn up by Daniel Craven and Ebrahim Patel, joint presidents of SARFU, which is expected to make a further statement this week after discussions with the ANC and the National and Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC).

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MEDIA p4
Off the cuff,
on the air —
and into the
White House?



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 18 1992

PARENTS p5
Terminal
cases: Davina
Lloyd at the
airport



What shall we tell the president?

A YEAR ago today, four of the most powerful men in Russia set out on a top-secret mission to the Crimea. The men were Oleg Baklanov (the deputy chief of the Defence Council), Oleg Shenin (a member of the Central Committee Secretariat), Valentin Varennikov (the commander of land forces) and Valeri Boldin (right), Mikhail Gorbachev's chief of cabinet for nearly ten years, the head of the "general department" of the Communist Party Central Committee, and a consummate apparatchik. Their task was to persuade President Gorbachev to declare a state of emergency and keep the Soviet Union together by enforcing firm rule from the centre. But the president refused. Less than 24 hours later tanks appeared on the streets of Moscow and it was



announced that Mr Gorbachev was ill and the duties of state president had been assumed by the vice-president, Gennadi Yanayev.

Of all those involved in the coup, Mr Boldin had worked most closely with Mr Gorbachev and his betrayal hit the Soviet leader hardest of all. "Even Boldin..." he would repeat after the coup was over.

Mr Boldin was arrested on August 22, two days after the coup was defeated, charged with attempting to seize state power, and imprisoned. During this time he began to write his memoirs. On December 20 Mr Boldin was released from prison on medical grounds. In this extract he tells of the visit to the president's villa at Foros on August 18, 1991 that led to the overthrow of President Gorbachev.



The aftermath: President Gorbachev talks to the press after the failed coup when he was kept confined to his Crimean villa (below)



Varennikov: inclusive



Baklanov: perplexed



Shenin: opening move

They took me into the cell, and the keys clanked in the lock as the door shut. There were no windows. I could see that it was a single cell. That was probably for the best. I didn't want to see anyone. They had taken away my belt, tie and braces and my documents and money. I lay down on the bedstead and felt the cold of the metal.

That morning I had been lying in bed at the hospital where I was receiving treatment. I had woken before dawn by the nurse. "The doctors have come to see you," she said, but her face betrayed such terror that I knew that they had come for me.

Taking off their white coats, they handed me an arrest warrant signed by Trubnin, the procurator general of the USSR. Then it was full speed ahead to Matrosovskaya, fishing sailors' rest, prison number 4. There, searched and robbed, I allowed the events of the last few days to rush around in my head — that whole sequence of events that had brought me, and not only me, to this place.

Five days before, on August 17, I had been at the KGB's official guesthouse when I was told that the defence minister's plane would leave Chkalovskaya the next day at 2pm for Belbek, the military airfield nearest to the villa in the Crimea where the president was on holiday. "Can you come?" I was asked. "We've got to tell the president the whole truth about the situation. He'll believe it if it comes from you."

led at the airfield, greeted the pilots, climbed the steep ladder into the Tu-154 and seated ourselves in the minister's section.

Only as we started our ascent did I start to think about what I was doing. What had brought us to this point?

We had been having regular discussions about the difficulties ahead since January 1991. The impossibility of averting collapse was clear for all to see. The president, however, seemed to be thinking about quite different things. He was writing his new book and Raisa Gorbachev's memoirs were being published, for which she was going to get a very large sum in hard currency. Raisa Maksimova used to ring up all the time, asking which publishers should be entrusted with her "first born".

But from the beginning of 1991, the president's chief worry was the decline in his personal popularity, and the increase in Yeltsin's authority. He would sometimes gather a small circle of people he trusted and ask them: "If we hold national elections for the presidency, what can we do to increase my popularity? Can we count on winning?"

So far as winning was concerned, people just looked embarrassed, but on the matter of popularity they were in no doubt: restore order, fight crime, halt the orgy of nationalism and ethnic unrest, improve agriculture and industry.

Everyone who worked closely with Gorbachev saw his hesitancy, his inability to take decisions, and felt the hopelessness of the situation. The country was on the verge of collapse, hunger and destruction, something just had to be done.

I had last spoken to President Gorbachev by telephone on August 16. Preparations were in full swing for the signing of the Union Treaty. I had to go to the office almost every day to check the printing of the treaty's text. Gorbachev rang to reproach me for the number of documents I was sending to him at his villa in Foros where he had been for nearly two weeks. "I'm not at work, I'm on holiday," he said. "Stop this or I'll send them back without looking at them."

When the plane touched down at Belbek we were met by official cars. One of the party, it seems, had rung ahead to the Yuri Plekhanov, Gorbachev's chief of security at the president's villa, to tell him of their arrival. A half-hour drive brought us to the summer residence of the president of the USSR. There were a few security guards on the gates. Plekhanov went to report our arrival. But either no one was at home or they were not in any hurry to see us.

The villa is vast. On the ground floor there are rooms off to right and left and a broad staircase leading to the first floor. Everything is top quality — as befitting a house that, according to Plekhanov, had cost 80 million roubles.

After we had been there for about 40 minutes, Gorbachev appeared. He was agitated, his face was red, whether from the sun or from crossness, and he looked furious. He shook everyone curiously by the hand and asked angrily: "Why is the phone cut off? [It was said that the president's phone had been cut off late on August 17.] Why have you come here?"

"We wanted to talk to you and explain."



"So it was you who cut off the telephones," he said. "What am I to make of that?"

All this was said on the way into his study. The study was small and uncomfortable. There was nowhere to sit. He did not sit down either.

Shenin tried to start the conversation. "We have come to tell you about the situation in the country and about measures to remedy it."

"Who do you represent? Who are you speaking for?" Shenin had not expected this. He had counted on a comradely chat and a decision taken in everyone's interests. One of the conditions of our trip was that we should reach an agreement. It should be the president who decided. Yet somehow the conversation had gone wrong from the very first.

"Who do you represent?" the president repeated. "And who are you speaking for?"

"We represent a significant part

of the country's leadership," Shenin tried to go on.

"Who exactly?" Hearing that Baklanov was a member of the initiative group on states of emergency, the president said: "Well, you talk, but I won't talk to the others. They don't represent anyone, and tomorrow I'll issue a decree sacking them."

Baklanov had hardly begun speaking when he was again interrupted by the president: "Exactly who sent you here?" Shenin began to list them, and the names included some I did not know about. Gorbachev noted them.

Varennikov tried to say something. With characteristic incisiveness he spoke about the state of the country and the army, about the harsh conditions the people and the officer corps could expect if emergency measures were not taken. As I understood, what was being suggested was that the president

should take emergency measures for the duration of the harvest and until the economy stabilised, or at least until the fall in production halted. Implementing the measures should be entrusted, if not to the Cabinet, then to someone he could trust. These words were certainly spoken, but they appeared not to be heard.

"What you have dreamt up is adventurism of the highest order. I won't do that. Everything you are proposing can only be done through democratic means. You have a think about it and tell your comrades," he said, shaking our hands.

We left the house, debilitated by the difficult conversation. "He agreed that there had to be a solution. But what has changed?" asked Baklanov perplexed. No one said anything.

We landed in Moscow in the dark, 20 minutes later we were in the Kremlin. I went into the office and in the dim light could just see people sitting at the long green baize table. At first, the only one I recognised was Gennadi Yanayev (the vice-president). Shenin was giving his report, relating calmly and in detail what happened.

A heated conversation developed about what to do if the president rejected the proposal that he should introduce a state of emergency. Someone said, "If the president doesn't want to, then we should carry on regardless." I went to sleep that night without knowing what they had decided to do.

I woke up, worried; switched on the television and understood everything. An emergency committee had been formed and the reins of power had passed to Yanayev.

who had taken over the duties of the "sick" president. Hardly the best decision.

I went to my office in the Kremlin late. There were armoured personnel carriers and tanks on the streets. Yanayev, I was told, had asked for me. I rang, but there was no reply. Valentin Pavlov (the prime minister) was not there either. I understood that they had been up all night and were sleeping it off. Later, though, it became clear it was not a matter of too little sleep. The leaders had "freshened up" and some had over-indulged.

Through August 19, 20 and 21, my information was limited to what I saw on the television. I could not stand it and went to work. But I couldn't find out much more even there. I leafed through documents on my table, passed on a decree that Gorbachev had already signed and several of his instructions.

Suddenly, on the third television channel you could hear a programme being put out, although it was lashed by all sorts of interference and noise. Something was changing. Yarov Kryuchkov, Ivan Silayev (Russian prime minister), Anatoly Lukyanov (chairman of the Soviet parliament) and Vladimir Ivashko (deputy general secretary of the Communist Party) had flown down to see Gorbachev. The president was returning from Foros.

The next morning my telephones were cut off. I understood then that my hour had come. Only a day separated me from Matrosovskaya tishina prison. Only a day, and a long, late-summer night.

Valeri Boldin's memoirs, translated by Mary Dojensky, The Times's Moscow correspondent, are to be published in Britain by I.B. Tauris.

The B-word came between me and Lynda Chalker last week, blocking the effortless communication which should have been flowing between us. Lynda Chalker was talking on the radio about, I guess, humanitarian aid to the former Yugoslavia. I couldn't take in a word she was saying. I was thinking "How can I take Lynda Chalker seriously now that she is styled Baroness?"

When she was simply Mrs Lynda, that earnest, bubbly and coo lady could always count on touching a tender spot in this calloused and hardened old heart. I paid attention to what she said because she seemed to be an honest Josephine, a governmental squaddie or grunt, who had slogged up through the ranks by diligent effort and had earned her ministerial baton. Despite the Hermes scarf and the string of pearls her appearances in sand-blown

and stinking refugee camps always looked like the sincere efforts of a down-to-earth Tory lady who will do some good even if it makes her rouge run, much like dozens I have met and liked in villages round my way. If the member for Wallasey was not exactly one of us (there were always few of us, after all, and not many left) she was certainly not one of them. Now that she is grandified with Wallasey as her titular suffix, I cannot take her seriously; if we've reached the point where Lynda Chalker is a Baroness, I'm Garter-King of Arms with knobs on.

These disrespectful feelings towards the lately ennobled rise with age. If signal stages may be noted when constables begin to look like children or when the newly appointed Editor of The Times is

No bowing and scraping to peer pressure

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon is less than awed by grandeur

younger than yourself, another may be recognised when the titular elevation of those who are within your age-range sets off a bout of restless, itters. When Anthony Eden turned into the Earl of Avon, I remember feeling that he had donned the cloak of gravity which once hung about the shoulders of Northumberland and Warwick and drew them close to the throne. Being about ten years old, I was as awed at this entitlement as I had been when Len Hutton was knighted and I felt that the Swan of Pudsey had been given his due and proper place alongside John of Gaux. Since those days, the intimations of assumed nobility have



been slipping away down a gutter of cackles. They began to flow when Mr Kagan got his lordly nobbings for making Mr Wilson's mack. They

surged on when Mr Burnett got a gold star and was dubbed knightly top of the class for reading aloud. They swelled to a merry flood when Buggins' Turn brought the sword round to Andrew Lloyd Webber's shoulders and the worst cut head of hair in public life apart from John Selwyn Gummer's bowed to receive its royal bris. If Andrew Lloyd Webber deserves to be called Sir, I swear that Tony Hatch deserves an earldom and Jackie Trent a marchioness's stole. Which popular melody fingers longer in the nation's collective soul: "I Don't Know How to Love Him" or the theme from Neighbours? "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" or the theme from

Crossroads? No doubt the College of Arms has burnt the midnight oil with many a long night of calculation over these questions.

Americans are on the receiving end of a massive battery of mockery from this side of the Atlantic for their fondness for titles in their commercial life, but I don't know what we think we've got to laugh about. If Bernard Matthews can get royally gonged for pressing turkey steaks in a billion shrink-wrapped packets, I don't see why a corporate secretary should be derided for calling herself Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive. Her vanity, at least, is given no formal and public ratification; and when she's out of the job, she's out of honour. Jimmy Tarbuck will remain a member of the select and elevated

honourees of our state, no matter how much more terrible his jokes become. Think of that.

The longer we live, the more merriment the Honoures' Lists may bring us. We may yet see our very own band of ordinary bods ermined and pearled and tottering in procession under the weight of their velvet robes and hats on a hot day at Windsor Castle. Jack Straw for the Garter? Sue Slipman for Dame? William Waldegrave for Black Rod? John Selwyn Gummer for Knurled Knobkerrie on the Side? It could all happen. Martin Amis for OM? Surely not. Brian Patten for Royal Bard? Leave it out.

Some names, though, must be found to fill the lists, however unpromising my generation may seem as candidates for ennoblement. The girlhood contemporaries of Lynda Chalker probably did not imagine that they would live to call her Baroness.

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP: One of the world's best and most popular dance troupes makes a belated British debut at the Edinburgh Festival, bringing two programmes devoted to show the diversity, wit and enthusiasm of the American choreographer's work. The first programme is *Dance and the American*, a collection of dances from Morris's extensive repertoire, including the famous *Swing* and *Swing* with the choreographer himself taking the role of dancer. *Swing* is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of conductor John Nesch, presents a programme of Scottish music, including the *Scottish Rhapsody* by James MacMillan, the *Scottish Suite* by Malcolm Arnold, and the *Scottish Rhapsody* by James MacMillan. The orchestra will be at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

JAMES PRYDE: The actor, who has been a regular presence at the Edinburgh Festival, returns with a new play, *The Last Days of Pompeii*, which he has adapted from the novel by H. G. Wells. The play is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY: The Scottish National Gallery, which is part of the Edinburgh Festival, presents a series of exhibitions, including the *Scottish Rhapsody* by James MacMillan, the *Scottish Suite* by Malcolm Arnold, and the *Scottish Rhapsody* by James MacMillan. The gallery is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

WALTER: The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Walter, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

FURTHER OVERLAP

Donnell's thrilling National Theatre production of *Donnell's* is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

EDINBURGH FRINGE

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Cyrano de Bergerac, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

AROUND THE YEAR IN FIFTY MINUTES

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Around the Year in Fifty Minutes, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, A Midwinter Night's Dream, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Death and the Maiden, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

GRAND HOTEL

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Grand Hotel, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

HUBBARD

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, Hubbard, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, From a Jack to a King, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, The Madness of George III, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, The Sound of Music, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THE PLAYERS

The play, which is a new work by the Scottish playwright, The Players, is at the King's Theatre, Leith, from Tuesday to Thursday, 7.30pm, 2.30pm.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

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JAZZ

Brecon Jazz Festival

Wales

THOUGH the big names always help to attract the crowds, the prime asset of Brecon's annual festival is the sense of spontaneity. An amateur Dixieland band, overheard through the open window of a pub, can be just as uplifting as the celebrities playing at the town's main venues.

With so many concerts crammed into a weekend, reviewers can end up in a state of nervous exhaustion, always wondering what they are missing at the other end of the street. At one point on Sunday afternoon, for instance, it was possible to stroll from the sell-out concert by the fusion guitarist Pat Metheny to the genial open-air recital by the gifted New York saxophonist and arranger Loren Schoenberg, doubling back to catch the pugnacious swing arrangements of the Howard Alden-Dan Barrett Quintet. Forget the schedule and simply drift from bandstand to bandstand.

As with last year, the locals were on the look-out for a hippie invasion. This time there were few traces of any spaced-out New Age acolytes, unless you include some of the Metheny fans who queued outside the Market Hall to see their hero. Teenage drunks also appeared to be less of a nuisance. One of the hottest tickets on Saturday was for the Dixieland band, overheard through the open window of a pub, can be just as uplifting as the celebrities playing at the town's main venues.

Some 60 years his senior, the venerable Jay McShann dusted off the Kansas City blues licks at Christ College the following day. Celebrated as an early rival to Count Basie, McShann is reaching the age where some of the agility of his fingering has probably gone for good, and his performance was not helped by a lacklustre and apparently under-rehearsed backing group. But he acquitted himself with honour, his voice

holding up well on "Georgia On My Mind".

McShann's concert was one of five recorded by BBC 2's cameras, for broadcast in the autumn. Another of these was Metheny's reunion with the veteran bebop drummer Roy Haynes and the bass player Dave Holland. Whatever you think about his celebrity status and his preference for cloying melodies, Metheny deserves credit for his open-mindedness. There must be many admirers around the world who are still scratching their heads over Song X, the near-impenetrable col-

laboration with Ornette Coleman. The Brecon trio was a similarly uncompromising unit which relied on a narrow tonal palette. With Haynes and Holland both playing at a feverish pace, there was little light and shade until the appearance of an old Antonio Carlos Jobim ballad "Insensatez". After an hour of intense dialogues, it was a relief to walk outside into the sunshine and discover Loren Schoenberg deftly coaxing a pick-up trio through "Gone With the Wind".

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Terry Farrell's architecture has transformed London. He talks to Marcus Binney about plans for Hong Kong and Edinburgh

Top of the form in a class of his own

Terry Farrell's star is rising. At a time when most British architects are desperately short of work, he has just won two major competitions in Hong Kong, and a start is shortly to be made on his new £30 million conference centre in Edinburgh. For Farrell these triumphs are doubly sweet as until now virtually all his work has been in London.

Yet six months ago, prospects looked very different. The three massive projects which had sustained his practice from 1986 — Charing Cross, Vauxhall Cross and Alban Gate on London Wall — were all nearly complete. His staff, which had grown from 15 to 150, looked set to shrink almost as drastically. Farrell's recent buildings and designs share one quality in common: they are landmarks. While many architects are moving towards ever lighter and more transparent buildings, Farrell positively delights in sheer sculptural mass. Yet he is uneasy with suggestions of monumentality. "I prefer to call it an architecture of pure form," he says. "The move towards geometric simplicity unites a whole range of architects working in different styles: Arata Isozaki and Tadao Ando in Japan, Aldo Rossi in Italy, and Mario Botta in Switzerland."

This quality can be seen clearly in his design for Edinburgh. Here is an imposing flat-topped cylinder, like a giant hat box, but in scale almost as powerful and brooding as the Castel Sant' Angelo in Rome. Yet round buildings can feel uncomfortable or awkwardly proportioned in cities and Farrell ingeniously makes the transformation to the grid of city streets by introducing large cube pavilions at the corners, meeting the curve of the rotunda in a different manner on each side and so giving a freestanding building four distinct elevations.

The test of the building will equally lie in the quality of the interior spaces, for which drawings will be complete in September. "The main 1,200-seat auditorium subdivides by a series of revolves into two and three," says Farrell. In addition, there will be a banquet hall for a thousand people and auditoriums for 200 and 600.

The commission to replace the existing Peak tower in Hong Kong was won in a select international competition that included both Ando and Rossi. "It is intended to be a symbol of the city as much as the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House or Big Ben. The site commands one of the best views in the world and is visible from Kowloon and the new territories as well as from the Hong Kong waterfront," he says. "I deliberately oversteered to be seen from a distance, like the Grande Arche in Paris."

The silhouette is that of an oil

lamp or Chinese junk carefully balanced on four finger-like towers. "It's based on many overlapping Chinese forms, urn, vase, lotus leaf, temple with upturned eaves," he explains.

Farrell's design for the Consulate-General in Hong Kong is intended to revive a distinctive tradition of public buildings amidst the thrusting office towers of the colony. "While high-rise has given Hong Kong a new dramatic character, especially at a distance, there has been a loss of sense of place at street level," he believes.

He has divided the accommodation, for the consulate and the British Council, into two buildings.



Farrell: "Much of my time is spent designing, but I don't sit at the drawing board"

crowning views up Supreme Court Road and Justice Drive, and has placed the buildings along the pavement to preserve the steeply rising gardens behind. Between them will be a glimpse of a 50ft waterfall cascading through the trees.

"The idea is to recall the first British landing in Hong Kong in search of water. History relates that they stumbled on a magnificent waterfall."

But what could be Farrell's greatest landmark of all — if it turns out to be the winner — is his competition design for the Singapore radio tower, taller than the Eiffel Tower. Many recent masts of this kind have ended up looking very similar because the emphasis is all on the engineering aspects, tension wires and radar discs. "Too many of these structures learn nothing from architecture, even though they contain a lot of accommodation, ten floors in this case," says Farrell.

His design is much more in the tradition of monuments, light-houses and beacons. The tower silhouettes are like giant versions of Mackintosh ladder-back chairs forming a Grande Arche. "The site is a hillside park like Primrose Hill in London, where people go to be made," says Farrell. The mast itself is treated as a tapering, upturned sword pointing at the sky. Six months have passed, however, and

no winner has been announced, equally tantalising for other British contenders such as Will Alsop and Jan Kaplicky.

In London, Farrell's last addition to the scene is Vauxhall Cross, nearly complete and due — so it is whispered — to be occupied by M15, a curiously conspicuous location for so secretive a user.

This stretch of the South Bank between Lambeth and Vauxhall Bridges has the most dismal procession of slab office blocks to be found in central London. Farrell has produced a design of stepped terraces and advancing wings that seems Egyptian enough to stand on the Nile. Both the form and the language are also born of the architecture along the Thames in the 1920s and 30s, which Farrell became fascinated with while working on his new building above Charing Cross. Farrell also expresses enthusiasm for the elegant detailing of Gilbert Scott's two great power stations at Battersea and Bankside.

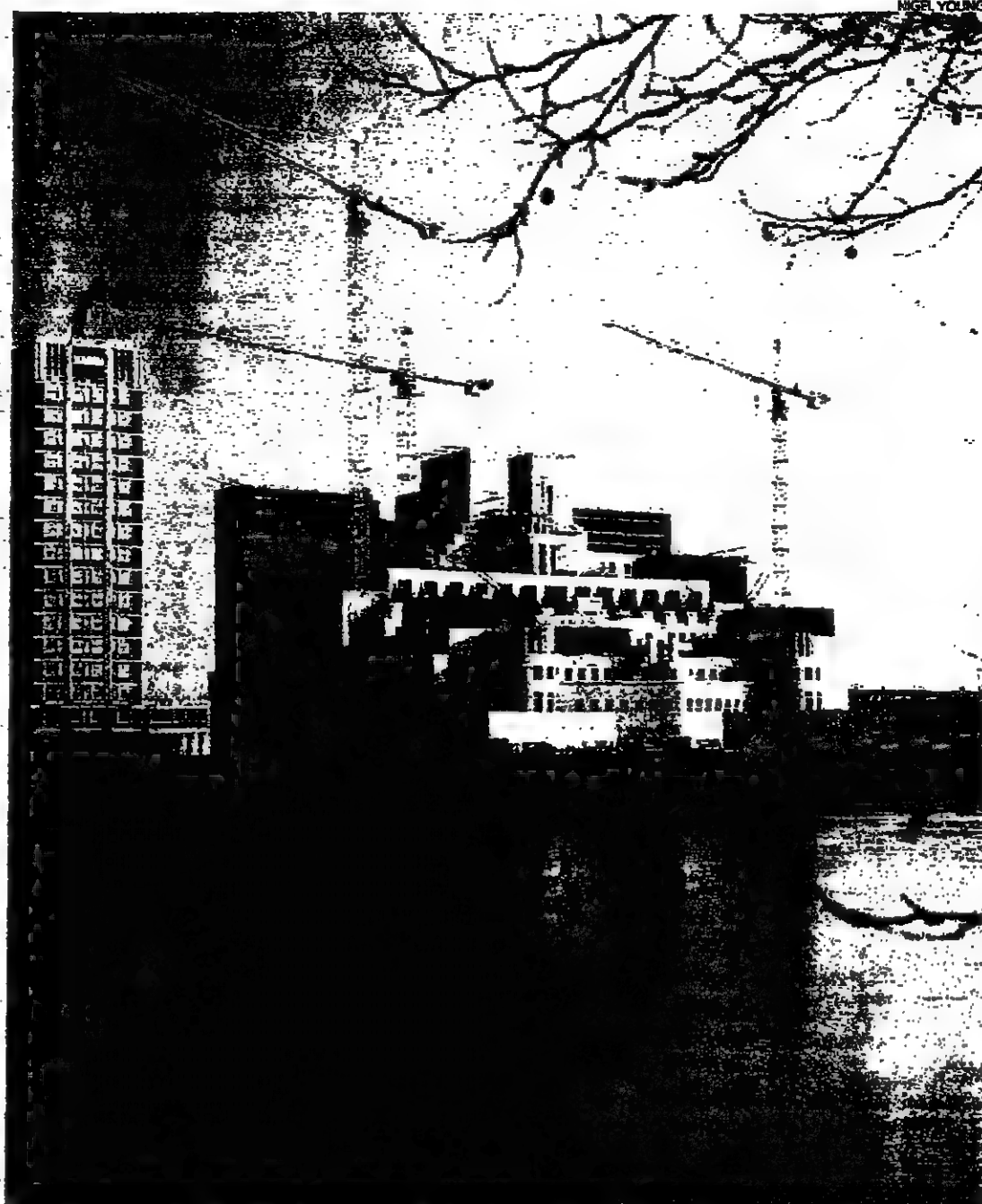
The building has a strong public element as it continues the westerly walk along the South Bank, complete with lion masks on the parapet and modern versions of the famous dolphin lamps on the Embankment.

Vauxhall Cross is on an outside curve of the Thames and has spectacular views up and down the river. An enterprising tenant could greatly increase revenue by letting the numerous large terraces for parties, though this must be rather an unlikely option in the case of M15.

The most controversial element of the building is likely to be the colour, especially the green glass, almost as strong as emerald, but yellow rather than blue-tinted. The sheer expanse of polished stonework links the building to an earlier tradition of riverside palaces on the Thames. How did Farrell achieve this on a budget building? "Artificial stone is now a very sophisticated material. We owe it to Ricardo Bofill in Paris, who developed it on a monumental scale with a very high standard of finish."

Much of Farrell's bread and butter work in these hard times has come from master planning. In the 1980s he established himself as a champion of the public interest, helping community groups fight public enquiries in Hammersmith, Wimbledon and The City.

He won a reputation for sensitivity towards urban context and street life. He is now doing schemes for Birmingham, Leeds and Newcastle, showing how older buildings and streets can be retained and revived in overall improvement schemes. Some of these projects are long-



"Egyptian enough to stand on the Nile": Vauxhall Cross, by Terry Farrell & Company in London

term. His proposals for eliminating the hated walkways in the South Bank Centre are now in their draft year with no clear indication of whether the scheme will proceed.

The post-modern battles of the 1980s he believes have been won. "The return to context is very strong. No longer are new buildings in towns designed without reference to their neighbours as if they were on green field sites. Even modernists have become interested in their own history."

A key question will be whether the 1990s brings a rapprochement between Farrell and the architectural establishment. The test is simple:

whether his name is put forward by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Fine Art Commission on shortlists for important public competitions in England.

While Sir Norman Foster and Sir Richard Rogers have partners who contribute on a virtually equal basis to their practice's output, Farrell has remained sole partner and owns all the equity in his practice. "It's the only way to retain total design control," he says.

But is it possible for as busy a man to do all the designing himself? "Apart from seeing clients, most of my time is spent designing," he says. "But I don't sit at the drawing

board. I never did, though I do a lot of freehand sketching. We have three studios and each project is set up in one of them two or three times a week. I move from one to the other, taking lots of tracing paper and going through every aspect of the design with the team working on it."

Farrell has shown he can work on a large scale, but it must not be forgotten that the virtue of his early work was the sheer amount of ingenious planning and witty, inventive detail on a small scale. The test for Farrell in the 1990s must be the extent to which he can combine the two.

ARTS BRIEF

Belated thanks

THE Sir Arthur Sullivan Society has announced its major project to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. It is the world premiere recording of Sullivan's *Boer War Te Deum*, which the composer himself never lived to hear, and which quotes from Sullivan's most famous hymn-tune, "Onward Christian Soldiers". The record, by the Britten-Pears Chamber Choir and the Choir of Ely Cathedral, will also include extracts from other Sullivan choral works, which have been neglected in favour of his comic opera collaborations with W.S. Gilbert.

Among them is another *Te Deum*, written in 1872 to celebrate the recovery of the Prince of Wales from typhoid and sung by 2,000 people at its first performance. The Sullivan Society (0388 710308) is launching the disc on October 23 to coincide with its grand celebration weekend in Hull.

Not alone

MACAULAY CULKIN, better known as one of Hollywood's most popular child stars, is to return to his previous profession as a budding ballet dancer when he features in a new filmed version of *The Nutcracker*. The filming of George Balanchine's classic, danced by New York City Ballet and starring Culklin as the Prince, is being filmed for release in the winter of 1993. Culklin was a student at the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet, and appeared in the company's production of *The Nutcracker* in 1988 and 1989 before the runaway success of *Home Alone* put an end to his career as a dancer.

Last chance...

THE arrangement and furnishing of public spaces is small beer compared with saving the rainforests, but it, too, has a vital role in improving our environment. "The Furnished Landscape" shows how artists have recently played their part in Britain, from Bruce Maclean's Dockland railings to Tess Jaray's brick paving for Birmingham's Centenary Square, from Jim Parridge's rough-hewn benches to Jon Mills's aeroplane weather-vane for an Oxfordshire school. The exhibition continues at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44A Pentonville Road, London N1 (071-278 7700) until Sunday.

Playing fair by a German Bard

Joseph Williams investigates why Britain has so neglected the works of the great theatre pioneer, Friedrich von Schiller



August Tischbein's portrait of Schiller, (1759-1805), a German playwright hardly acknowledged in Britain

Ask anyone to name Germany's two greatest classical playwrights and the answer will undoubtedly be Goethe and Schiller. So it is odd that the dramas of Friedrich von Schiller should be known to audiences in Britain almost exclusively through operatic treatments; the plays themselves are performed in British theatres about as often as those of a third-rate Victorian dramatist.

Once, Chekhov was rarely played in Britain; today, who can conceive of a West End repertoire without him? Yet Schiller merits as much attention on the British stage as Molière or Pirandello. In Germany itself, meanwhile, Shakespeare is performed so often in regional theatre that one could be forgiven for thinking the Bard came from Heidelberg not Stratford. If Shakespeare's vibrant language translates brilliantly into German, surely there can be no reason why Schiller's cannot work in English.

Now comes a rare theatrical event: a new production of *Don Carlos*, Schiller's 1787 verse play set in the court of Philip II of Spain which later inspired Verdi's famous opera. The staging by Start Here Productions, which features a new blank verse translation, opens at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, tonight. Directed by Tim Carroll, and translated by Peter Oswald, the play matches the rhythm of the German original, but is judiciously cut to a more palatable three hours.

Don Carlos has hardly ever been performed professionally in London. Some regional theatres, such as Glasgow's Citizens, and Manchester's Royal Exchange, did mount Schiller's productions in the

1980s, and BBC radio drama once tackled Schiller's historical play *Wallenstein*. But he is scarcely part of the repertoire. Even the National Theatre has never staged a Schiller play, although it does plan to mount its own *Don Carlos* soon.

"I think Schiller is highly philosophical and at the same time fantastically theatrical, and that's a rather intimidating combination for English theatre," says Giles Croft, the National's literary manager. "There's also a long tradition of great theatre poets in France, Germany and all over the world translating Shakespeare as a matter of course. In this country, it's only in the last ten or 15 years that the idea that translation is a creative act has begun to take root."

Croft believes that there are added difficulties over whether to have an academic or a poetic translation, and "to what degree you compromise the original in order to create a living piece of art. Most of the 20th-century translations of Schiller have just been rather dull or prosaic. There's no sense in which they capture the 'magnificence' of the original."

Don Carlos itself is well over five hours long — in the uncut version — and fraught with technical problems. But so is *Hamlet*. And Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* and *Brand* were once thought unperformable, yet both have seen powerful productions in this country. *Don Carlos*, Schiller's first major blank verse epic, is the very stuff of drama.

According to the director of Start Here's *Don Carlos*, part of the problem is that the

German dramatist is a little strong for English sensibilities. "I'm inclined to think that there's something a little bit rich about him for our taste," says Carroll.

"We're not very good at surrendering ourselves to a tidal wave of emotion in

drama such as Schiller often gives us. When we want foreign classics, we can go for Chekhov and Ibsen, and we're pathetically 'unsentimental' about all the other great classics out there."

Carroll also believes the play works best in verse, not prose,

translation: "Given that Schiller conceived and wrote the play in Shakespearean imitations, it's crucial to maintain that in English. Our translation has the ability to be naturalistic — as iambic verse does — but can also lift off into poetic spheres."

The task of translating Schiller's sonorous verse has fallen to Peter Oswald, himself a verse playwright. "The difficulty is that Schiller hasn't been translated into verse by people used to writing verse dramas," he says. In translating *Don Carlos*, Oswald even made use of Schiller's avowed admiration of Shakespeare: "There are certain phrases which are virtual quotations from Shakespeare, and if you're brought up in the tradition of Shakespeare, you can almost see where the verse is going, and that gave me an advantage."

Tim Carroll believes that *Don Carlos* is a play to rival *Hamlet*: "It's extraordinarily theatrical. It doesn't seem to rely on any great historical knowledge to understand what's going on or a system of beliefs we no longer hold. We have no longer hold, but the idea of totalitarianism and the terror of surveillance by other members of the court is something all of us can understand."

Like *Hamlet*, the young Prince Carlos is beset by spies and sycophants, jostling to wrinkle out the root of his melancholy. In fact, Carlos's intended bride, Elisabeth (daughter of the King of France), has been snatched by

his own father, the despot Philip II. Classic conflicts ensue — son versus father, youth versus age — all inextricably linked with the themes of political expediency, autocracy and liberty.

Schiller, born in 1759 and writing long before the state of Germany came into existence, believed theatre and poetry should play an essential role in the life of a nation. The *Sturm und Drang* — Storm and Stress — movement with which the young Schiller and Goethe were associated smashed its way out of stifling stage convention and plunged headlong into emotion and vitality. *Don Carlos* stands as the link between that early exuberance and the great works of Schiller's maturity.

He was as capable of meditative poetry as of works of philosophy and history. His genius was recognised by writers such as Dostoevsky and composers such as Schubert and Beethoven immortalised Schiller's *Ode to Joy* in the Ninth Symphony. In fact, music has been kinder to Schiller than the theatre: *Maria Stuart*, *Wilhelm Tell* and *Don Carlos* have all been turned into operas.

Yet it is hardly true that Schiller only works on a grand operatic scale. His early drama *Cabal and Love* is even better known as the subject of Verdi's opera *La Traviata*. But it made gripping theatre in the confined space of the Lyric Studio last March. Similarly, Schiller's intense study of the conflict between the two queens Mary and Elizabeth in *Maria Stuart* captivated audiences in a production in Greenwich in 1988.

Don Carlos opens tonight at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, London (081-741 5701)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Stray bullets and shots in the dark

In Arlington National Cemetery, the grave of Robert Francis Kennedy is marked by a movingly simple crucifix, only yards from the infinitely more imposing monument to his elder brother with its eternal flame and massive etched inscriptions. In death, as in life, Bobby walks in the shadow of Jack, a more substantial man than JFK, potentially a much finer president, but one who has never quite matched his stature in American folklore.

This historical imbalance was the subtext of last night's *Secret History* (Channel 4), a pacy investigation of the 43-year-old senator's assassination in a Los Angeles hotel in June 1968. Long before Oliver Stone threw his hat in the ring with JFK, hundreds of books and documentaries had already written their hands over President Kennedy's murder — such that most Americans now assume he was the victim of a conspiracy. With equal confidence, they generally assume that the assassination of Robert Kennedy was the work of one man, Sirhan Bechara Sirhan, a young Jordanian from Jerusalem, who is still serving a life sentence.

In spite of a rather melodramatic style, this film gave persuasive grounds to suppose that the "lone gunman" theory is (yet again) flawed. Senator Kennedy, the autopsy revealed, was gunned down from behind and at point blank range. Yet, according to all eyewitness accounts, Sirhan was six feet in front of Kennedy, who was making his way through the hotel pantry fresh from victory in the California presidential primary. The alleged bullet trajectories also look fishy, failing to match the injuries and positions of the five other injured people, and there seem to have been more bullet holes than Sirhan could have caused.

Oddest of all was the testimony of several witnesses that a man and a woman had been seen rushing gleefully from the scene, exclaiming

"We shot him, we killed him" — testimony that the Los Angeles Police Department went out of its way to suppress. In one chilling taped conversation, a frenetic interrogating officer warned Sirhan Serrano, an aide who had seen the couple, that she should retract her statement "if she loved Kennedy". But do three accomplices make a conspiracy?

Perhaps with the plot of *The Manchurian Candidate* in mind, *Secret History* concluded that Sirhan was a robot assassin "hypo-programmed" by the CIA and produced enough evidence to suggest that such techniques were being used, at least experimentally. It is certainly true that Sirhan has always claimed to have no memory of the shooting, but the alleged confession of a deceased doctor to two prostitutes, that he had done the programming, is scarcely enough to go on.

One trouble with loose speculation is that it tends to reinforce cover-ups instead of undermining them. Why so little mention of Sirhan's strongly pro-Palestinian testimony, considered in the context of Kennedy's repeated calls for an increased supply of arms to the Eshkol government in Israel? And what about the old theory that the "extra" shots were fired by Thane Cesar, a security guard standing behind the senator?

Still, this film shed disturbing light on an under-examined event in American history and poked well-deserved fun at contemporaries who poured contempt on the dissenters. "Someday, somebody for purposes best known to themselves, regardless of the evidence, is going to try to prove that Sirhan didn't do it, that there was a conspiracy," muttered the LA district attorney of the time. "We know what happened". No doubt; but what about the rest of us?

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

JAZZ RECORDS

When sidemen move into the spotlight

To ask a jazz pianist to play a solo recital is somewhat like making a magician go through his routine stark naked. Every cliché, every false note is ruthlessly exposed; the most imaginative and resourceful players are quickly sorted from the also-rans.

The same principle applies to the sequence of solo concerts taped in the hushed surroundings of the Maybeck Recital Hall, a small venue in Berkeley, California. Reserved mainly for pop and mainstream pianists, the project opened some years ago with a set by JoAnne Brackeen.

Since then the series has had its dull patches, yet also its moments of galvanising, off-the-cuff inspiration. The recitals by Dick Hyman, Gerry Wiggins and Marian McPartland (which make up

volumes three, eight and nine, respectively) undoubtedly belong in the latter category.

Hank Jones' live at Maybeck Hall marks the sixteenth volume, no less, in the series, and does so with some style. While he has never enjoyed a high public profile, Jones has always been in demand among his peers. A former accompanist with Ella

Fitzgerald, he has worked with just about any major soloist worth mentioning.

At 73 he has retained his deftness of touch and appetite for show tunes. Like some of the other Maybeck performers he seems a mildly self-conscious solo artist at times, occasionally succumbing to the temptation to add one contrived note too many, but as an

exercise in rhythmic variation this session amounts to a virtual masterclass.

Former Miles Davis drummer Tony Williams spent several years in pursuit of the holy grail of fusion music. Having abandoned that particular quest, he returned to the fertile group improvisation which characterised Davis's mid-1960s groups.

His latest release, *The Story of Neptune* (Blue Note CDP7-98169), has been touted as something of a breakthrough. Unfortunately it contains all the nagging flaws of previous releases by Williams's quintet, that is to say fastidious but lifeless soloing, nondescript themes from which to work and — worst of all — the leader's own overblown drumming.

CLIVE DAVIS

Selling candid candidacy

Ben Macintyre reports on the carefully rehearsed off-the-cuff sincerity of this year's presidential race

Before it abruptly ran out of steam somewhere on the way to the moral high ground, the bulldozer that was the "Ross Perot for President" campaign radically altered the political landscape of America. It galvanised, and then left unsatisfied, the political instincts of many Americans who would not normally have felt part of the political process: it gave many a new sense of their own importance, relative to the men who aspire to the White House. It also, in the view of many media analysts, killed off the "spin doctors", the image consultants who have in the past been held largely responsible for the success or failure of political candidates.

Mr Perot used (and some believe abused) the American media as they have never been used before. His campaign was effectively launched, not in the backroom power-broking houses of Washington DC, but on *Larry King Live*, a CNN television talk show.

Instead of building up a political image through carefully scripted press conferences and policy documents, Mr Perot made a virtue of his own unsophisticated political appeal, by employing the two instruments that are available to every American: the television and the telephone.

For the first time ever, the public could ask a candidate their own questions and gauge his responses on a variety of popular television call-in programmes, without the filtering of media consultants and news editors. Long before Mr Perot decided to throw in the towel because, he said, he could not win, his "government by the folks, for the folks" approach had alienated the very media



Sweet and sour: while (above left) Arsenio Hall introduced Bill Clinton on sax, George Bush may have shot his bolt



experts he had hired to polish his image.

But it worked, and the other candidates followed suit. Bill Clinton appeared on Arsenio Hall's talk show, in the flesh, and on the saxophone. Emboldened, he then turned up on MTV to answer the questions of a cross-section of American youth. In the weeks leading up to the Republican convention, which began yesterday, even George Bush, a notoriously fickle quality off-

vised Mr Clinton to pick up his saxophone in the first place and venture into talk-show territory.

Mr Perot made no secret of his distaste for Washington's journalistic sophisticates and the media manipulators who feed them. When Vice-President Dan Quayle lashed out at the "media elite" he was partly making up for years of savaging at the hands of journalists, but he was also tapping into a rich vein of resentment. Amer-

icans have made it clear they no longer trust journalists to ask the questions they want answered

and harry them for replies; the general public, by contrast, tended to avoid confrontation and often posed specific questions related to the individual's own concerns.

Sometimes a surprise question from a member of the public can elicit more illuminating responses; usually they do not, and all too often a question "from the floor" has simply proved an opportunity for the questioner to express his or her own political views.

ronmental failures of Michael Dukakis, the then governor of Massachusetts and his Democratic presidential opponent. It was a devastatingly successful piece of visual propaganda, which the Republicans have as yet been unable to equal this time.

Before the Clinton-Gore post-convention bus tour took off, Monty Engelberg, the producer of films such as *Smoking and the Bandit* and *The Big Easy*, scouted the route for the most televisual stops, and the resulting images did much to continue the Democrats' political momentum.

The party's media managers had earlier come up with an unexpected visual bonanza, when hours of searching through the Boston film library unearthed four seconds of Bill Clinton shaking hands with John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden in 1963. A generational link with the Kennedy era could not have been more emotively expressed.

"Bill looks like such a wholesome kid," said one of the Clinton advisers. The film was shown to gasps of rapture at the Democratic Convention, and is expected to play a central part in the Democratic advertising campaign.

With the jolting memory of Mr Perot's popular appeal still fresh, both candidates are devising new methods of appealing directly to the American public. But behind the scenes, and the cameras, the ranks of media consultants are spinning as never before.

Americans have made it clear they no longer trust journalists to ask the questions they want answered

the-cuff, invited members of the public to the White House Rose Garden for unsolicited questions in front of a television camera.

Some American media analysts promptly announced the dawn of a new age, and a new "talk-show" campaign, in which the average American, on a nationwide basis, got the chance to see presidential candidates up close, personal and unrehearsed — and often.

But while they may be less visible, the media consultants are far from extinct: Mr Perot has changed the way the spin works, but the assumption that the various media consultants in either party have not realised the fact, and changed their methods accordingly, is patently false. It was, after all, Mandy Grunwald, the Democrat's hard-nosed, street-wise political consultant who ad-

icans have made it clear they no longer trust journalists to ask the questions they want answered

Which suits the candidates, and their handlers, just fine. Presidential candidates would rather be asked a question by Mrs All-American from Normal, Illinois under the benign eye of an Oprah Winfrey than by a pack of journalists armed with statistics and inside information.

The *New York Times* recently reviewed the hundreds of questions that have been asked of both candidates since campaigning began, and found "a striking difference between those asked by reporters... and those asked by people in the audience or calling in". The newspaper found that the journalists tended to follow up on questions, confront the candidates with political data

A recent question to Mr Clinton and Al Gore, his running mate, on a CBS television call-in programme was prefaced with: "Good Morning Governor Clinton, Senator Gore, our future president and vice-president" — the sort of soundbite that is a spin doctor's dream come true.

Television is still the key to the American election, and not just in the talk-show arena. As in 1988, campaign advertising is crucial, as is the search for the perfect photo-op, the televisual image that neatly captures the image of a candidate.

So far, the Democrats are winning that battle. During the 1988 election, Mr Bush climbed on to a boat in the malodorous sludge of Boston harbour to illustrate the envi-

Who let the soap go down the drain?

The vilification of Jonathan Powell over the failure of *Eldorado* shows a sinister turn in television politics

The attempted mortification of Jonathan Powell, the controller of BBC1, because of the failure of *Eldorado*, has far wider significance than the fate of one man or one programme. The notion that a valuable executive should carry the can for a collective mistake is far more typical of the cut-throat politics of American television.

Dirge as *Eldorado* is now, it is far too early to tell the ultimate fate of a soap, especially one launched in the summer against the Olympics. But if even a formulaic soap packaged by some of the best drama producers in the business faces such an early verdict, what tolerance will be offered to far more adventurous programming that seeks to win a prime-time slot? The right to fail is absolutely essential to any experimental work that needs the chance to take risks and learn from its efforts. Even *Coronation Street* (Channel 4) took several seasons to find their style and their audience.

Good television comes from the commitment of the production team to getting it right and of executives to give them the time and resources to do so. Having worked in the arts, comedy, drama, current affairs and documentary spheres, I know that in each of these fields the room to rethink, do further research, rewrite, recast, reshoot or re-edit makes a crucial difference between delivering what is known as "product" and delivering potentially memorable television.

The heat and pressure of production make mistakes inevitable, and in long-running series such as soaps, with brutally tight schedules and budgets, those mistakes become all too public. Part of the creative process now at risk is the time to realise what

seems wonderful on the page or on location simply fails to communicate to others.

In America, the pressure to produce instant results has eroded the quality of television, and the graveyard of pilots of new series is overflowing. Those few that make it to the screen for a first season may not survive past three episodes if the viewership figures are weak. Even when programmes win decent ratings, the demo-

If American experience is a model, audiences will shrink as cable, satellite and home video make substantial in-roads into terrestrial viewing. As the pursuit of viewers intensifies, the interest and support for programmes that have their own inherent artistic or social value wanes. Yet this actually narrows viewers' choice and turns them towards other media.

Apart from the production team, *Eldorado* involved not only Mr Powell but the BBC's senior management, all the way up to the director general, all experienced and respected professionals.

The larger question is not who to blame but whether it is necessary for intelligent and thoughtful men and women to bow to commercial pressures from businessmen whose only measure of success is the bottom line.

Michael Grade, the head of Channel 4, argues that the very pressures on the others to go downmarket will keep him from following suit: that Channel 4's distinctiveness is its unique selling point. This is an argument many of its supporters urge on the BBC as well: that defending its status against advertising and privatisation can only be justified if it delivers programmes that only a public broadcaster committed to high standards and broad output would make.

The title of the forthcoming Royal Television Society Conference is "Surviving in the Nineties". The low road is no guarantee of survival for any of the broadcasters that take it. That American prime-time viewing has dropped by a third is a useful and timely warning that audience taste cannot be taken for granted.

For programme makers and executives who want to take risks, and viewers who want to be surprised, this is good news.

VIEWPOINT

Roger Graef



graphics of their audience must fit advertisers' requirements or the show will still be pulled. *Taxi* and *Hill Street Blues* were successful creatively and their audiences were large but proved too broad to sell to advertisers. *LA Law* was just saved from the axe by demographics: its middling numbers included a high proportion of precious ABC's, which its would-be replacement could not guarantee.

The importance of advertisers rises in direct proportion to the scarcity of viewers. One of the fallacies involved in applying pure market forces to British television is the belief that as the number of channels increases, the number of viewers will expand. It will not.

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Growing up after tragedy

How can children who have witnessed violence and death be helped to overcome trauma? Liz Gill reports on how professionals limit psychological damage

The tears of a heart-broken child are unbearable to watch. More alarming, however, according to Anne Bannister, is no tears. It is then, she says, that you know the child is not getting better.

Mrs Bannister, a psychotherapist and consultancy manager with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in Manchester, says that when asked about something terrible that has happened to them, many children will say, "Yeah, yeah, it happened. It's no big deal. I'm all right now."

This seems callous and has in the past fooled a lot of people," she says. "But for a child to recover, it has to express feelings appropriate to the event."

A week ago Hammersmith Coroner's Court in London heard two separate cases in which children had lived for days beside a dead or dying parent. In one a two-year-old boy survived on scraps as his father's body decomposed in a back room; in the other a boy of 12 went in and out of the flat where his mother had suffered a stroke, insisting to friends and neighbours that there was nothing the matter.

Such behaviour, says Mrs Bannister, is common among those faced with the horrific. "It is not acceptable and therefore it has not happened."

The first reaction usually is to try to make it fit in with what you do understand. The two-year-old would have had no notion of the fact that his father was dead. His experience says Daddy is asleep so he would do all the things he would normally do in those circumstances, shouting, crying, jumping on him to wake him.

"When that didn't fit he would block it out. What they do next, depending on their age, is what they have to do in terms of existing. Food would be the obvious thing. With an older child it would be whatever it felt was needed, contact with others, the chance to talk, to go on as if everything was normal."

After the denial stage the trauma starts slipping to the back of the mind. "At one time we used to think we should just allow that to happen," Mrs Bannister says. "But we discovered that could be very damaging because in any future trauma or change in circumstances, maybe just going to school,

all the previous feelings would return, perhaps even more massively, although the child would not know why they were there."

The Hammersmith cases, only a month after Rachel Nickell's small son, Alex, witnessed her brutal murder on Wimbledon Common, came in a week of yet more images of suffering among innocents from Sarajevo to Somalia. Without help, the outlook for traumatised children is bleak: an inability to love and trust, difficulty in forming relationships, depression, feelings of aggression, often persisting into adulthood, are a frequent legacy, Mrs Bannister says. There may also be wider implications for the society in which they live and many aid agencies now believe it is vital to help children's minds as well as their bodies. The United Nations Children's Fund, for instance, has already begun several projects in Croatia to tackle the psychological damage done by the war to its younger victims.

Naomi Richman, a child psychiatrist, has just spent three years in Mozambique training local teachers to help children caught up in the conflict there. "It involves befriending and establishing good relationships, as well as doing activities such as games, art, theatre, to express feelings. Not all cultures need to talk about things but the children need to know their feelings are understood and accepted."

Many of those she has worked with have not only experienced violence, they have also lost parents, homes, entire communities. "When attacks are happening in war, children are obviously very distressed but if they are with their parents and can get out of the situation or it comes to an end, they should, gradually, recover. But the longer they remain in the conflict the harder that is."

There is evidence, Dr Richman says, that children too young to speak can still be affected by witnessing violence. Even infants of 18 months remember images. "At five or six they begin to realise they could die themselves — generally older children find it the hardest because they are more aware of the dangers." Alex Nickell, aged three, is being helped over his ordeal by Jean Harris-Hendricks, a consultant child psychiatrist. Detectives hope that some of the child's recollections

may help in their investigation. "Though programmes such as hers can help in the short term, Dr Richman believes wider measures are vital if war is not to breed 'lost generations'." They should be given the chance to lead a normal life afterwards and this means economic possibilities as well as being able to play and go to school. If parents don't have a chance to rebuild their lives it's hard for the children to grow up normally."

Like others in the field she is continually impressed by children's resilience. "Children try very hard to heal themselves in play. It's the natural way of dealing with it. I've had nursery nurses say to me about a bereaved child, 'She's so morbid, she's always playing funerals, and I say 'good'. Some are more resilient than others. It may be personality but it may also be to do with the child's life before the terrible event. Resilience can be worn away or it can be strengthened."

"A traumatised child does not always have to have professional therapy. Loving kindness and common sense can be enormously helpful as long as common sense is not just telling the child that everything will be all right."

"It is also important as time goes by not to attribute everything to that one event and that's where it helps to know about child development

and the way children are likely to behave at different ages."

The other temptation may be to indulge the hurt child. "While you should give as much as you can to a traumatised child that includes giving boundaries as to what is permissible and what is not."

Often the problem lies as much with the parent as with the child, says Michael Stewart, the co-director of the Centre for Crisis Psychology, which has helped survivors of Zeebrugge and other disasters. "The adult often blocks recovery by not treating the child as an intelligent being," he says. "They are patronised by not being told the truth or by being told a silly little version of it or they are not allowed to show their grief. The best thing you can do is be truthful in an idiom and language they understand."

"It's no good just telling a four or five-year-old, 'Daddy's gone to heaven', because they need to deal with the fact of his death. I happen to believe in heaven but that doesn't save me from feeling devastated by life. Grief is grief."

"On four occasions we have been contacted by schools where they have suffered multiple tragedies and we have suggested a seminar in which the event is discussed

openly, either with or without our help. But they have refused: they say the children will be too upset."

Children do not have to be caught up in war or violent events to be traumatised. A two-year study of 650 families in Bedfordshire by the local Victim Support found that many children were deeply disturbed by burglary in their home.

Alan Doughty, the group's director, says: "Reactions varied enormously, from children who thought it was all a super event because of fingerprints and scenes of crime officers to those who dared not go into their own bedroom and who showed signs of extreme anxiety like sleeplessness or being physically sick."

"Often they didn't share with their parents what they were feeling because they did not want to add to their distress but it would show itself elsewhere, at school or the youth club." The organisation has now produced a booklet for parents which outlines strategies for coping.

Recognising when a child has been traumatised may be difficult for a parent. Mrs Bannister says a good rule of thumb is any behaviour that is unusual for that child that persists for several weeks. Mr Stewart adds: "It's a very difficult area, but basically if you feel you need help you should ask."

Victim support: given the right care, this child in Mogadishu may survive the trauma of civil war



Victim support: given the right care, this child in Mogadishu may survive the trauma of civil war

Have children, will not travel

Some have fear of flying — not I. I have total faith that the metal giant will get up and stay up. My phobia is grounded elsewhere. I have fear of airports.

Leaving aside the nightmare of packing and persuading my children that they may leave their flint collections and computer games behind, and that someone will feed the cat and the sick insect, and that 15.00 check-in time does mean four o'clock, the real panic begins at Terminal One. As we wheel our hard-won, wobbling, overloaded trolley to the check-in area, my anxiety sets in.

There at the desk a process of separation no less profound than severing the umbilical takes place. Which of our collection of baggage is to go into the hold and which will pass the hand-luggage test?

I used to let my two children pack their own hand luggage, on the understanding that they could take anything they felt they'd need on the journey and were prepared to carry. It's a practice I've now stopped, partly because of the times I've had to carry a sleeping child, plus its rucksack with rock collection, together with my own bag and weighty duty-free assortment. And there was the time I had to explain why my son was importing a two-way radio and plastic hand grenade and mini-machine-gun from his mock commando kit. Now only paperbacks and puzzles are permitted.

Checking in accomplished, child-free travellers may feel the worst is over. They need only saunter round the airport, sipping pricey cocktails and purchasing last-minute silk scarves (for which the shop is always open) until their flight is called. Parents, however, have a lengthy shopping list: sweets to suck at take-off, comics, tissues and travel sickness tablets from the chemist (which never seems to be open). And dealing with requests like, "I want to change the five holiday money Granny gave me into pesetas". When you've retrieved your children from the computer games and hairband arcade, passport control should present few problems.

Then there is the scene at the security check: one child is generally loath to let her bear go through the X-ray scanner unaccompanied, and the other is again being interrogated by security guards — this time for a dangerous weapon in his hand luggage. It is my son and his Swiss army knife. There are probably terrorists sneaking Semtex through at this very moment while I'm springing him from a body search and wondering how they imagine a small boy is going to hijack a 747 with something that takes stones out of horses' hooves.

Through at last. And is there time to queue at the duty-free for a quart of gin, which I know I'll need before the journey is over? No, I have to help negotiations for my daughter, who wants to buy a wristwatch with her holiday money, which has now been converted to unspendable pesetas.

Finally, after we have all walked the two miles of carpet to our boarding gate, all the parents, children, babies, buggies and bootleg liquor are safely stowed on



DAVINA LLOYD

board and the children are asking how long till we land. The pilot announces that we are not going anywhere. Two passengers have checked in but did not board the plane. They are probably parents who have gone through the rigmarole so far and decided to spend their holiday at home instead. I do not blame them.

We spend an hour on the runway. My son teaches my daughter how to play poker and wins her remaining holiday pesetas from her. They have read their comics, decorated their sick bags and eaten all the sweets.

A further half hour passes. The absentees' luggage is unloaded (full, no doubt, of lethal Swiss army knives) and we take off. The pressure that makes adult ears pop is unbearable for the very young. Everyone under two begins to scream simultaneously, and the stewardess comes round with an ineffectual basket of boiled sweets.

Part of the psychology of transporting people at high levels and high speed is to keep their minds off fearful thoughts. Tipping free Scotch down them may work for nervous adults, but has limited use for bored children. Unlimited supplies of complimentary colas just make them want to pee a lot. And accompanying small children on frequent visits to a tiny aircraft lavatory beggars description.

When the booze trolley comes by I seem to be hunting for the dolly's hairbrush under the life jacket. So, dehydrated, hassled and suffering from backache (having been pumelled mercilessly by someone else's children in the row behind), I begin to have harsh thoughts about children and air travel. Obviously, there are only two solutions. Either, like my husband, you plead pressure of work and join your family on a later flight. Or you partition the aircraft. Planes are already cordoned off into first class and hol polio, smoking and non-smoking. What about having children and non-children sections? In the junior sections, finger food or burgers could be served and the cabin staff — dressed as clowns, perhaps — could entertain the children with demonstrations about letting down emergency oxygen supplies.

Meanwhile, I want to know where you can buy those luggage labels my parents used to tie on to their steamer trunks on the long sea voyages from India. NWOV, they said: Not Wanted On Voyage.

If in doubt, don't

As all we teenagers are obstreperous, self-opinionated and convinced of our own immortality, I feel eminently qualified to give a long and gripe-riddled list as to what adults, and parents in particular, should under no circumstances attempt to do after the age of 30.

The first and most important is: please don't even try to talk to me. You don't understand. You're too old. You have never watched *Dance Energy* all the way through. You have probably formed no opinion about stage diving (members of the audience climbing on to the stage at gigs, and then hurling themselves into the audience). You may even be giving a home to a beard, which leads us on to:

2. No facial hair, please. Many sad laddies, around the age of 15, will attempt to grow a moustache in the vain hopes that the El Barrancide bouncers will believe sad laddy is 21. Sadly and unfortunately, the sad laddy just looks like he has coated his lower face with glue and fallen over in some dust. But this article is about people over 30, who really should know better than to grow beards. This goes for women too. There are things you can buy in Boots, you know.

3. Shorts. No. On balance it's not worth it.

4. Dancing. Now there do seem to be major problems here. Ballroom dancing's OK for the very elderly people, likewise a dignified, tulle-draped waltz. Polka-ing I have no objections to. But there really is no call for the over-thirties to attempt the twist, the lambada or the shameless twitches that accompany "Agadoo". Particularly sad are 33-year-old former punks pogoing to the Sex Pistols their wives stiling calmly at their paunchy and looking piningly on their paunchily leaping spouses. There should be a law against it.

5. Wearing trendy clothes: Oh dear dear dear.

6. Saying "Maan". When we, the youthful, obnoxious generation,

Julian Critchley,

MP, says his

children think sex

stops at 35.

Caitlin Moran

offers the over-30s

advice on what

not to do



Bottom line: over-30s beware

say this, we mean it ironically. You guys really mean it, maan. And, with all the women's lib around in the 1960s, why isn't there a generation of parents all saying "woomaaan"?

7. Go on and on about how great the 1960s were or the 1970s. There was no revolution. Some scientists 30 years older than the flower children invented the Pill, and oh yeah, the Beatles stuck a microphone in a piano and played the tapes backwards. This year's finest band — The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy — play their music on blow torches and industrial grinders, and not once do they mention newspaper taxis. Bit of a relief for us, that.

8. Say that our generation is

boring. We weren't the ones who invented the harmonica solo. The "grinding to a halt right now" Stones were nothing to do with us. We weren't born when you were giving all your hard-earned Cliff Richard, incipient-mustache bower. 9. Condemn caves as evil dens of drug-taking and sexual abandon. This is the pot calling the kettle black. This is the sea calling the ocean a bit damp. This is the devil calling his Nö 1 demon "a bit naughty". Who invented love-triangles? Who was shrimping around naked at the Isle of Wight Festival, smoking herbal cigarettes, pretending to be a patch of sunny weather, and snogging everybody in sight? Not us, matey. We didn't start it.

10. Blame Kylie Minogue on us. We deny all knowledge.

11. Dito Top of the Pops.

12. Self-consciously enter McDonald's and order a Knickerbocker Glory. "With extra sauce". You're just kidding yourself that it makes you seem "gloriously childlike". What it says to us is "my teeth are very dodgy and I can't eat solids".

13. Over 30-year-olds should not show any interest in sex, whatsoever. It's just morbid and unpleasant for us to watch. Tcky, in fact. Super tcky. Accept your lot: you will see no more action at 29, and retire gracefully. Any urges in that direction should be replaced by vigorous handshaking, and the exhortation "I wish you well, my dear".

14. The same goes for kissing in public. Do it in your house with the curtains drawn, if you must.

15. Run a successful business, have a gorgeous spouse, perfect figure, loads of cash, a large house and glittering social life. You're just rubbing it in, really, aren't you?

16. My mum has just come into the room and said that what I am writing is severely prejudiced nonsense, and that age discrimination is one of the most evil, insidious crimes in this country. That's another thing people over 30 shouldn't do: come into my room when I'm working.

Museum treats

MUSEUMS are a rich resource for families during the summer holidays. At the Natural History Museum in London, there is a daily "science corner" in the Discovery Centre, where children can question experts on everything from poisonous snakes to precious stones. There are Fossil Fun for Families sessions each Wednesday: tomorrow, in search of fossil sharks on the Isle of Sheppey. Phone 071-938 9173 to book.

Mask-making workshops, for eight-year-olds to adults, tie in with the permanent dinosaur exhibition. (There will be two sessions on Monday, August 24, with advance booking advisable on 071-938 8899.)

At the neighbouring Science Museum, the Floating Point Science Theatre runs children's workshops at noon, 1pm and 3pm daily in August (weekends in

AND BRIEFLY

September). They link with the Living with Lasers exhibition, and on August 29 and 31 there will be a chance to add your picture to the laser mural.

Down memory lane

GRANDPARENTS' books — a sentimental American innovation — are becoming increasingly prevalent. If not popular, in Britain. They let grandparents record the important moments of their lives in the fond hope that their grandchildren will enjoy looking at them in years to come. The *Grandparents' Book*, available from Past Times (which has 16 shops around the country, plus mail order), costs £13.50. It offers space to record details of visits and achievements and to paste in photographs and other memorabilia. Phone 0993 779444 to order.

Playing dentist

NOW that it is virtually impossible to get a dentist on the NHS,

families might get some wry pleasure from playing Parker's Crocodile Dentist game.

The object is to pull out the teeth from a grinning plastic crocodile with a pair of tongs — but tug the wrong one and you'll be bitten. The game costs less than £15 — about the price of a filling — from most toy shops.

Breathe easier

MANY parents, particularly those whose children suffer from asthma or allergies, worry about some of the chemical ways of keeping moths and other insects away. Fly Away Moth sachets from Culpeper the Herbalist (£1.45 each) are composed of a special blend of herbs that insects are said to detest, but that humans find beautifully sweet. They are ideal for hanging in children's closets or putting in drawers where chemical "mothballs" will not do.

For any child who has difficulty in breathing — whether due to

asthma, hayfever or a summer cold — a pot pourri of Culpeper's Breathe Easy mixture (£2.75 a pack) in the room may help.

One-stop uniform

MARKS & Spencer is now offering a schoolwear ordering service — an SOS from desperate parents answered. Instead of trawling around different shops in the vain hope of putting together a set in the size required, you can now simply order everything you want from your local M & S branch, where skirts start at £7.99, sweaters at £8.99 and blazers at £27.

Relief in the rain

KEEP your hands out of mischief on rainy days with the colourful Rag Doll Kit or window mobile kit from Boots. At £3.99 and £2.99 respectively. Or, for the illusion of sunshine, make ice lollies in the clever Boots ice lolly maker (£2.50) and serve children's drinks in covered cups with sunglasses and feet (£1.49).

VICTORIA MCKEE

THE TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE: ON THE MATTER OF THE MIND

Key to the mystery of the brain?

HOW and when was the human brain formed? What is the difference between mind and soul? Technical advances in biology are bringing scientists closer to the answers to ancient questions. Now, to coincide with the publication of *Bright Air, Brilliant Fire: On the Matter of the Mind* by Gerald Edelman, The Times in conjunction with Dillons and Allen Lane The Penguin Press is sponsoring a lecture on this subject.

Dr Edelman, a Nobel laureate and the director of the Neurosciences Institute, New York, and Oliver Sacks, Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College

of Medicine, New York, both argue that biology provides the key to understanding the brain. Introduced by Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology, Oxford University, Dr Edelman will speak on biology and the brain, followed by Dr Sacks on neurology and the soul.

The lecture will take place on September 7 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon (right) or contacting Dillons by telephone, fax or in person.

● Bright Air, Brilliant Fire is published on September 3 by Allen Lane The Penguin Press (£20).

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MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY AUGUST 18 1992

Tactics of the new hunt

Recruiters find they can overcome the prejudices against public service once the significance of the job is explained. Clare Hogg writes

Britain's senior executive recruitment industry has its own Berlin Wall, according to a recent report issued by the search consultancy Saxton Bampfylde. On the one side, the public sector is often seen as "under-speed, under-motivated, under-equipped, even underdressed — a Trabant economy". The private sector, on the other hand, is "a BMW world — but with real doubts, in 1992, about its performance and legitimacy".

These prejudices create a serious difficulty for recruiters of senior people on both sides of the divide, as well as for the consultants who service their requirements. Nevertheless, more and more "cross-fertilisation" is occurring. Saxton Bampfylde's first public sector assignment was the appointment of Stephen Littlechild to the Office of Electricity Regulation three years ago. Since then the consultancy has carried out 15 assignments for high-profile positions including those of a chief medical officer, chief executive of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, director of works at the Houses of Parliament, and chief executive of the Defence Research Agency (DRA).

In spite of the enormous scope of this last appointment, which involves control of £800 million revenue and 12,000 employees, Stephen Bampfylde says: "Initially it was difficult to persuade many candidates that this was a challenging job."

"They thought the DRA was just a bunch of government scientists, not a real job of work at all."

The task was to explain to people the reality of it, the responsibility involved and the national importance of the output, and this was against the backdrop of the Gulf war.

The strategy adopted by another search consultancy, NB Selection, to capture the public sector market has led to the appointment of Bill Phillips, equipped with 15 years' experience in



On the lookout: Stephen Bampfylde trawls the private sector. Below: Stephen Littlechild, his first placing

Whitehall and five years as the managing director of Westminster City Council, "probably the first real managing director in local government".

The parallel of running a council as a business is false because "you cannot choose your product range or your customer base but you can run it in a businesslike way", Mr Phillips thinks there are few people who really understand how to transfer skills between the two sectors.

The methods used for public sector recruitment are different from those commonly used in the private sector. As Michael Geddes, the Civil Service Commissioner and chief executive of the Recruitment and Assessment Service Agency, explains: "The process is changing too. It is now a great deal more open. We are encouraging applicants from a wide range of backgrounds. Search consultants have played a significant role in this."

"The public sector principle of fair and open competition and selection on merit means that although about half senior job recruitment now incorporates search, this is carried out in conjunction with an advertisement."

Most search consultants agree that this is probably the right approach. Mr Phillips explains: "The sort of people



who potentially could do top jobs in NHS trusts or executive agencies can be found in a wide range of organisations. They will be administering complex structures with large internal markets, the GECs, BTs and Incharges of this world."

There is certainly more drive to recruit candidates with private sector experience. This approach represents better value too, a consideration where public money is concerned. Headhunting fees are typically based on a third of the new salary, compared with selec-

tion fees of 25 per cent. Predictably, Mr Phillips is positive about the role of independent search consultants for public sector appointments, but his reasons are fair.

He points out that the employer himself cannot carry out the search process. "Candidates need to be actively courted and wooed by recruiters with a convincing reputation," he says. "They have to be persuaded to swap certainty for uncertainty." This is often uphill work in the public sector.

In the future the executive who will most successfully build an outstanding career will be the one who shows the widest mind and most adaptable temperament. Switching between the two sectors will form a much more common pattern.

Many of the most challenging and influential jobs will be in the public sector. Some already in the public sector will force themselves to undergo the agonising transition to commerce. A former Treasury official explains: "I gave up my Hush Puppies and bought a proper pair of black Oxfords. I knew I had to do it."

● "Privatising People: Career moves between the public and private sectors" is available from Saxton Bampfylde International (071-799 1433).

Heseltine's jackpot comes with strings attached

Inner cities rise to the challenge

There is no shortage of political controversy about the City Challenge scheme, which will funnel £750 million of government grants and loans into inner city areas over the next five years. The scheme, created last year by Michael Heseltine when he was the environment secretary, came as a bolt from the blue for local government service managers, by requiring councils to compete against each other for a share of the urban regeneration funds.

Labour calls it "the ultimate in gameshow politics" while the Tories assert that it has revolutionised partnerships between local government and the private sector.

While the politicians trade insults, the effect on the management of public services in some of Britain's most deprived areas has been as profound as it has been unnoticed by the rest of the country. In future, councils were told, the allocation of funds would depend not on their ability to muster statistics to show how deprived their area had become but on how well they could mount a convincing presentation to ministers.

From this year councils will have to bid against each other for permission to spend money on repairing council houses. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, has said that he is committed to extending the principle to other areas.

Among the many aspects of the new regime that angered public managers was the assumption by ministers that City Challenge had somehow forced local government to work with the private sector for the first

time. Jeremy Beecham, the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and leader of Newcastle City Council, one of the first to win City Challenge funding, says that such an allegation hurt. "It is not true that local authorities, particularly in the big cities, have been reluctant to work with the private sector. If anything, it has been the other way round," he says.

Mr Beecham, a practising solicitor, says Newcastle council has always sought good relations with the city's business community. Where

The North Kensington City Challenge project, which covers Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill and the world-famous Portobello Road market area, will be overseen by a company with a 21-member board drawn from the council, community and local businesses.

The project will have a chief executive and an administrative staff of fewer than 12. All work in the area will be contracted out and, although the council will remain accountable to Whitehall for every penny spent, the company will have wide discretion over how it is allocated.

The council is at present advertising for a chief executive. The position, at a salary of £50,000 a year, is clearly aimed at a senior manager. But what sort of person is likely to succeed? Michael Stroud, the council's environmental services director, who is in charge of setting up the project, says: "We want somebody who can network well in an area, somebody with business acumen who can encourage investment in the area, but they will also need a clear understanding of the rules attached to government funding."

Although City Challenge is defined as a single programme it is financed by seven different government schemes, each with its own separate funding rules, which must be followed to the letter. "We are looking for a fairly exceptional type of person," Mr Stroud says. "But then few other jobs offer the opportunity to change a place for the better for all its residents."

DOUGLAS BROOM



Portobello Road: ripe for regeneration

his council did need new skills was in putting together its City Challenge bid. Videos, glossy brochures and detailed plans were pulled together into a presentation, which was staged, live, for an audience of ministers and senior civil servants.

When the funding was won, the next step was to adopt a new way of administering aid to an area. For example, Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, in west London, won £37.5 million of City Challenge funding in this year's second round of the competition. Guidelines from the environment department require that the council devolve responsibility to "implementing agencies". In most cases this means setting up an arm's-length company.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Leicester's

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to £45,000 pa

Alongside its designation as Britain's first Environment City and its invitation to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Leicester's success in bidding for City Challenge funds has helped to raise pride in the City both locally and nationally

On behalf of Leicester City Challenge Limited - the company set up to manage this development programme - we are now looking for a Chief Executive to build on the hard work that brought initial success and to lead a highly committed team that is dedicated to turning visions into practical reality. Working with representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors, the immediate task will be to finalise the 5 year action plan and the first year implementation plan.

We are looking for a highly experienced and motivated manager with a keen awareness of the issues surrounding inner-city regeneration and of the aspirations of large, multi-cultural communities. You will be able to demonstrate outstanding ability in project development and delivery - particularly to tight deadlines and targets. First class communication and interpersonal skills are essential for success, as is sound commercial acumen, personal presence and the ability to command authority.

This demanding - but unique - role offers an excellent salary, car, comprehensive benefits package and re-location assistance.

Closing date: 8 September 1992

Interim interviews: Probably week commencing 14 September 1992

Final interview date: 9 October 1992

Please send for a full information pack quoting ref. L/394/92 to

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Peat House, 1 Waterloo Way, Leicester, LE1 6LP. Tel 0533 471122 ext 4769

Equal Opportunities: All applications are welcome, regardless of racial origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, religious beliefs, class or sexual orientation

Sandwell is a progressive Council committed to providing quality services to its citizens. We are at present developing several new major initiatives in the areas of staff development and quality services and have recently been successful in our bid for City Challenge.

We are seeking a Chief Executive who has a proven track record in Local Government and who will be able to develop policies and strategies to achieve the aims and objectives of the Council. You will have experience in working in partnership with external agencies including Central Government departments, leading and motivating other senior managers and you will be committed to enabling Local Government to provide, either directly or indirectly, services that meet the needs of an urban area in the West Midlands.

The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the post, removal expenses and a car allowance, together with good conditions of service and a pleasant working environment.

Application forms and further details are available from the Borough Personnel and Equal Opportunities Officer, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, Woking, West Midlands B69 3DG. Tel: 021 569 3800

Closing date 7th September 1992

We are an equal opportunity employer. We positively welcome applications from the ethnic minorities, disabled people and women where they are under-represented in particular jobs. Consensus of members of the authority will be decided. Trade union membership is encouraged.



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Apart from analytical skills, we shall need evidence of verbal and written communications ability, and it would be advantageous if you have practical experience of information technology.

Gillingham has a reputation for sound financial management and innovation in provision of services, and has in the last two years undergone considerable organisational change. Both Councilors and the Management Team share a commitment to improving services and performance review.

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For an application and further details please contact Mrs June Smith, Personnel Section, Gillingham Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5LA. Telephone (0634) 282029. (24 hour answerphone)

Closing date: 11 September 1992.

Ref: 902092

Interviews are expected to take place late September.

Gillingham
BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPEAL DIRECTOR

The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
England and Wales

The remarkable progress in recent years in the treatment of cancer and the improved prognosis for the life expectancy of afflicted children have increased dramatically demands on the Fund's resources. The Trustees have decided to undertake a multi-million pound appeal, coinciding with the Silver Jubilee of the Fund in 1993 and the forthcoming Centenary of Sir Malcolm Sargent's birth in 1995.

An experienced major charity fund-raiser with a demonstrable record of success is sought to take up this three year appointment in the Autumn 1992. Age is not material but vigour and enthusiasm are essential. The successful candidate, working under the Chairman of the Appeal Committee and in close collaboration with the General Administrator, will be responsible for all aspects of planning and implementing the Appeal. Excellent diplomatic and presentational skills are essential, as is commitment to the Fund's objectives. An active interest in classical music is desirable.

An attractive salary is negotiable. Membership of the Fund's group medical insurance scheme is available. A full expensed car will be provided. Applicants should send full CVs to Westminster Associates International Limited, Regency House, 1-4 Warwick Street, London W1R 5WB. Telephone: 071 287 5788.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report August 18 1992

Court of Appeal

Protecting policyholders on insolvency

Scher and Others v Policyholders' Protection Board and Others
Ackman and Others v Same
 Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Leggatt
 [Judgment July 9]

Guidance was given on the operation of the scheme under the Policyholders' Protection Act 1975 and the Insurance Companies Act 1982 designed to assist private policyholders in the event of the insolvency of insurance companies which carried on business in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal construing the 1975 and 1982 Acts varied orders made by Mr Justice Webster and granted declarations by way of response to the following questions:

- 1 What was a "United Kingdom policy" within the meaning of section 4 of the 1975 Act?
- 2 What was a "private policyholder" within the meaning of section 6(7) of the 1975 Act and with section 96 of the 1982 Act?
- 3 What was meant by "the amount of any liability of a company in liquidation towards a private policyholder under the terms of any general policy other than a compulsory policy which was a United Kingdom policy at the beginning of the liquidation" in section 8(2) of the 1975 Act?

The other group of plaintiffs were three physicians representing 5,000 doctors practising in New York. The Ackman group of 303 plaintiffs were either partners in Fried Frank, a partnership of lawyers practising in the United

States of America, or partners in Clarkson Gordon, a partnership of accountants practising in Canada. Both groups had taken out professional liability insurance policies subscribed by four insurance companies authorised under the 1982 Act but in respect of which provisional liquidators had been appointed.

Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd and New Hampshire Insurance Co Ltd were joined as defendants on their own behalf and on behalf of a class of all persons authorised to carry on insurance business in the UK on whom the Policyholders' Protection Board might impose a general business levy under the 1975 Act. On the hearing of the appeal, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was granted leave to intervene.

Mr Anthony Grahame QC, Mr Michael Crystal QC and Mr Geoffrey Vos for the Scher group; Mr Gordon Pollock QC and Mr Mark Phillips for the Ackman group; Miss Elizabeth Glosier QC for the Secretary of State; Mr Peter Scott QC and Mr Roy Phillips for the Policyholders' Protection Board; Mr Samuel Stammers QC and Mr Alan Griffiths for the Royal and New Hampshire Insurance Co Ltd; and Mr Nicholas Leggatt QC for the New Hampshire Insurance Co Ltd.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said section 4 of the 1975 Act which provided: "(2) A policy of insurance is a 'United Kingdom policy' for the purposes of this Act at any time when the performance by the insurer of any of its obligations under the contract was evidenced by the policy would constitute the carrying on by the insurer of insurance business of any class in the United Kingdom."

It was common ground that the only possible source for such a power was to be found in section 64(1) of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980. If the hearing of the appeal was to be a nullity, jurisdiction to make a nullity order was conferred on the court.

Under section 116 the stopping up proposal was made by way of "application" to the court.

At first glance the proceedings did not look like the hearing of a complaint.

However, having regard to the nature of the proceedings, the Lord Justice said that the nature of the application was to be treated as a complaint and that accordingly there was jurisdiction to make an order for costs.

Solicitors: *Iliff, Chessham, Pearson & Stirling, King's Lynn.*

Royal and New Hampshire had pointed out that at the material time it would be likely that the only outstanding obligation under the contract would be to make payment to or for the benefit of the policyholder.

In the plaintiffs' cases that was inherently likely to take place in North America, where the Royal and New Hampshire had submitted, could not constitute carrying on insurance business in the UK. His Lordship rejected that argument.

Payment of claims under a policy effected in the UK would always constitute the carrying on of insurance business within the UK wherever the claims were paid, because payment was part and parcel of carrying on insurance business within the UK. A insurance contract was not any the less effected in the UK where it had been sold by an overseas agent or broker if the insurer's only place of business was the UK.

His Lordship would declare that "a policy is a UK policy at any time when as part of the insurance business which the insurer is authorised to carry out in the UK he would have performed an obligation under the contract evidenced by the policy, whether or not it would have been performed in the UK."

Private policyholder
 Section 96 of the 1982 Act provided: "(1) ... 'policyholder' means the person who for the time being is the legal holder of the policy for securing a sum payable under the policy, and ... (2) ... 'policyholder' means a person to whom under a policy a sum is due or a periodic payment is payable."

Section 6 of the 1975 Act provided: "(7) 'Private policyholder' means a policyholder who is either (a) an individual or (b) a partnership or other unincorporated body of persons all of whom are individuals."

The Fried Frank partnership included professional corporations within the partnership. However, the legislative intention was that any partnership or other unincorporated body to whom a sum was payable under a policy was not a private policyholder and his Lordship would so declare.

Section 8(2) of the 1975 Act provided: "(2) ... it shall be the duty of the [Policyholders' Protection] Board to secure that a sum equal to 90 per cent of the amount of any liability of a company in liquidation towards a private policyholder under the terms of any policy to which this section applies which was a United Kingdom policy at the beginning of the liquidation is paid to the policyholder as soon as reasonably practicable after the beginning of the liquidation."

His Lordship would reject the judge's conclusion that whenever

the type of policyholder and whatever the triggering event, section 8(2) only applied in the present context to the company's liability for sums which had fallen due to a policyholder under the terms of a policy before the date of the liquidation.

In his Lordship's judgment, the legislative intention was quite clearly to give all private policyholders of UK policies 90 per cent protection. Yet liquidation of an insurance company was not usually caused by its insolvency in terms of the policy, but in terms of its total exposure to such claims when added to a much larger number of contingent claims.

The 90 per cent liability of the board was based on the liability of the company in liquidation towards a policyholder under the terms of the policy, that liquidation falling to be determined in accordance with the general insolvency rules and the special scheme contained in rule 6 of and Schedule 1 to the Insurance Companies (Winding Up) Rules (SI 1985 No 93).

Adopting the reasoning and conclusions of Mr Justice Hoffmann in *Transit Casualty Co v Policyholders' Protection Board* (The Times May 24) and using his classification of claims, Lord Justice said that in the case of overdue claims the claimant would always be a policyholder either because he was a party to the insurance contract or because he was a person to whom under a policy a sum is due.

In the case of unexpired period claims the claimant would be ineligible because it would not be in respect of a liability "under the terms of any policy".

In the case of mature and contingent claims, if the claimant were a party to the insurance contract, whether his claim were mature or contingent it was in respect of a liability under the contract and he would be a policyholder. Whether his claim were mature or contingent it was in respect of a liability under the contract and he would be a policyholder.

With mature claims a sum was due at the date of liquidation although not payable until later. That was sufficient to make the claimant a policyholder. By contrast a claimant in respect of a contingent claim could not assert that at the time of the liquidation anything was due and, if he were not a party to the contract of insurance, could not claim to be a policyholder.

His Lordship would declare accordingly. Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: *Wilde Sapre, Freshfields, Treasury Solicitor; Herbert Smith; Herbert Smith; Kennedy.*

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Complicated cases not apt for summary proceedings

Balti Trading Ltd v Afalona Shipping Ltd
 Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Beldam
 [Judgment July 22]

An action in the Admiralty Court that required lengthy argument by counsel on complicated issues of construction of documents was not a suitable case for summary proceedings under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The procedure was suitable to decide an arguable question of construction, only if it was short and depended on no more than a few documents, more especially if the decision would practically dispose of the action in one way or the other.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments in allowing an appeal by the defendants, Afalona Shipping Ltd, from the order of Mr Justice Sheen on February 3, 1992, that the plaintiffs, Balti Trading Ltd, be at liberty to sign judgment for damages to be assessed.

Mr Timothy Young for the defendants; Mr Timothy Bremner for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the plaintiffs were the owners of steel, part of a cargo shipped on board the defendants' vessel in 1990 from Durban to Trabzon. On discharge at Trabzon the steel was found to be damaged due to collapse of the stow. The plaintiffs claimed that the defendants' construction was so

clearly unarguable that they had no defence.

It was doubtful whether the case was a proper one for summary judgment. If the purpose of such applications was to avoid delay, it was only if a question of construction, when decided, would determine all the issues between the parties that was likely to be the result.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE agreed the case was not suitable for summary proceedings. On proceedings for summary judgment the court would decide an arguable question of construction if it was short and did not depend on more than a few documents, more especially if the decision would practically dispose of the action in one way or the other.

While a degree of latitude clearly had to be allowed to judges and masters in deciding whether a question was suitable so to be decided, the question of construction which arose here was not a short one. It was a difficult question which had taken counsel a long time to argue before the judge.

Moreover, if it was decided in favour of the defendants, a trial of disputed questions of fact would in any event be necessary. In the circumstances it was not a suitable case for summary proceedings.

Lord Justice Stocker gave a concurring judgment. Solicitors: *Holmes, Hardingham, Clyde & Co, Guildford.*

His Lordship thought that it was open to the court to make an order

involvement with the child C, in respect of whom a care order had just been made.

Mr Roger McCarthy for the local authority; Mr Martin O'Dwyer for the guardian ad litem; Mr Pierre Janusz for the mother.

MR JUSTICE EWBANK said that the first question was whether the justices had been right in thinking that they had power under section 34(2) of the 1989 Act to make an order that there be no contact between the child and the mother, although such an order would not be appropriate in most circumstances.

Mr Justice Ewbank so held in the Family Division allowing the local authority's appeal against an order by Margaret and Ramsgate Family Proceedings Court on June 3, 1992 that the guardian ad litem be allowed to have continued

involvement with the child C, in respect of whom a care order had just been made.

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Paying costs of objectors in highway case

Lincolnshire County Council v Brevins and Others
 Before Mr Justice Henry
 [Judgment July 2]

An application under section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 was to be treated as being by way of a claim, and accordingly, a highway authority could not be ordered to pay the costs of objectors entitled to be heard at the hearing.

Mr Justice Henry so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing Lincolnshire County Council's appeal by way of case stated against an order of Long Sutton Justices.

The justices had ordered that the council pay the costs of the respondents, Mr C. Brevins and 14 other objectors, following the dismissal of an application for an order

under section 116(1) of the Highways Act 1980 for the stopping up and diversion of part of a public highway.

Mr Leigh Sagar for the council; Mr Karl H. Scholz for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said that on the hearing of an application under section 116 any person who used the highway or any other person who would be aggrieved by the making of the order had a right to be heard.

When respondents had claimed that right before the justices.

The justices had dismissed the application and ordered the council to pay the respondents' costs. The question raised was the jurisdictional one of the justices' power to order costs.

It was common ground that the only possible source for such a power was to be found in section 64(1) of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980. If the hearing of the appeal was to be a nullity, jurisdiction to make a nullity order was conferred on the court.

Under section 116 the stopping up proposal was made by way of "application" to the court.

At first glance the proceedings did not look like the hearing of a complaint.

However, having regard to the nature of the proceedings, the Lord Justice said that the nature of the application was to be treated as a complaint and that accordingly there was jurisdiction to make an order for costs.

Solicitors: *Iliff, Chessham, Pearson & Stirling, King's Lynn.*

His Lordship would reject the judge's conclusion that whenever

the type of policyholder and whatever the triggering event, section 8(2) only applied in the present context to the company's liability for sums which had fallen due to a policyholder under the terms of a policy before the date of the liquidation.

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His Lordship would declare accordingly. Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: *Wilde Sapre, Freshfields, Treasury Solicitor; Herbert Smith; Herbert Smith; Kennedy.*

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